

SÄNGLADESH LODAY

UNITING PEOPLE EVERYDAY ◆

THURSDAY

DHAKA: December 11, 2014; Agrahayan 27, 1421 BS; Safar 17, 1436 Hijri www.thebangladeshtoday.com; www.tbtlive.com Regd. No. DA~2065, Vol. 13; No. 93; 12 Pages~Tk. 7.00

INTERNATIONAL

Nobel Peace winners stress education for all

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ENTERTAINMENT Sujana to return soon

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SPORT Pakistan's ODI batting a decade behind the rest



ROAD VICTORY

Paratroopers dropped in Tangail for final thrust on Dhaka

DHAKA: As the UN debated possible ways to end the conflict in the sub-continent the Mitra Bahini made a final thrust for Dhaka by dropping para-troopers in Tangail, 100 kilometers away, reports BSS.

The air drop was conducted at 4.30 in the afternoon. About one thousand troops under the command of Lt-Col Kulwant Singh of the 50th Parachute Brigade were helli-lifted and dropped on the outskirts of Dhaka.

As usual the troops were greeted by jubilant villagers who not only greeted and feted them but also carried their arms and ammunitions.

> (Contd. on page-11)

Narayanganj 7 murder case

RAB men involved, reports submitted

TBT REPORT

Eight months after the killing of 7 people in Narayanganj, an elite police unit submitted reports to the High Court. As per reports former army officers LT Col Tarek Sayeed Mohammadm Maj Arif Hossain, ex Lt Commander MM Rana are responsible for the murder and has been taken to the elite force's Narayanganj base in this regards.

Amongst the accused Tarek Sayed is the son-in-law of Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofzzal Hossain May.

According to the briefing by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, Tarek Sayeed and Arid Hossain were directly involved in the murder from the very beginning. On the other hand, another accused, Rana took part in only getting rid of the bodie others.

The report also included names f 18 others, all of them deputed to Narayanganj-based RAB-11, involved in the killings.

Speaking about using the information in the trial Mahbubey Alam denoted that the report is not to be considered in the trial, only the submitted charge sheet by the DB police will be taken into account. He said, "The High Court ordered the RAB only to indentify whether the force's members were involved and whether there was any negligence to rescue the abducted," said the attorney general.

Asked whether the RAB headquarters were informed about the incident, Alam replied: "That will be known after the full report is read.



Train engine 'Mohanagar Provati Express' diverged off the track and crashed into a platform on Wednesday. Photo: TBT

Life form in Sundarbans under threat

Oil spillage extending up to 15 to 20 km

The oil tanker that sank in the Shela River at Joymonigol under East Zone of the Sundarbans on Tuesday hasn't been retrieved as yet. On the other hand around 3.57 lakh litres of oil, that was in the tanker is spreading in the river at an alarming rate extending up to 15 to 20 kilometres.

Meanwhile, Divisional Forest Officer Chowdhury Amir Hossain said two rescue vessels sent from Barisal and Narayanganj have not yet reached the spot.

A day after the incident the Forest Department a 100 crore compensation suit against the owners of the the two vessels responsible for Tuesday's oil tanker capsize in the Shela River, causing seriously spillage of oil over a huge area of the Sundarbans, threatening its flora and fauna, mainly the

aquatic animals. Due to the twice-daily cycle of tide and ebb in the Sundarbans, the oil is spreading out dangerously in all directions from north and south. Then it will spread from east to west," says Rubaiyat Mansur of the Bangladesh Wildlife Conservation Society

The Sundarbans has been home to several species of dolphins -- Indo-Pacific hump-back dolphins, finless dolphins, Indo-Pacific bottle-nose dolphins, Spinner dolphins, Porpoise dolphins, spotted dolphins and Gangetic river dolphins. The Brides variety of whales are also found in the area. Dolphins are close to whales.

The western Sundarbans have the highest concentration of this endangered species and it is precisely there that the oil spill has occurred.

Bangladesh Forest Department's Conservator (wildlife) Tapan Kumar Dey denoted,"The dolphins flung themselves out of water every 20/25 minutes, With the dense furnace oil,

> (Contd. on page-11)

Charge against Fakhrul in violence case on Dec 28

DHAKA : A Dhaka court on Wednesday fixed December 28 for hearing on charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 22 others in a violence case last year under the Speedy Trial Act, reports UNB.

Dhaka metropolitan magistrate M Tarek Mainul Islam Bhuiyan fixed the date after partial hearing of the charge in the case today (Wednesday).

Twenty-two BNP men including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and other party leaders -- Mirza Abbas, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Amanullah Aman, Abdullah Al Noman and Habibunnabi Khan Sohel -- appeared before the court today (Wednesday) while Mir Sharafat Ali Sopu was absent.

Kashimpur jail's missing rifle found in pond

GAZIPUR: The rifle that went missing from the armoury of Kashimpur High-Security Central Jail was found in an abandoned pond of the prison on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The firearm was found around 11am when a group of around 50 prison guards was searching for it in the pond, said Mohammad Nurul Islam,

deputy commissioner of the district. Jailer Jannatul Farhad said prison guard Al Amin who traced the rifle first was given Tk 5,000.

The missing incident came to light on Sunday afternoon while arms were being counted at the armoury.

A general diary was lodged with Joydevpur Police Station in this regard. Three guards, including chief ome Sirajul Islam, were suspended over the incident. Another guard, Arif Hossain, was also arrested in this connection.

Faruq murder AG says no bar to MP Amanur's arrest

Dhaka: The Appellate Division on Wednesday stayed the operation of the High Court order that had asked the police to refrain from arresting Amanur Rahman Rana, a ruling Awami League MP from Tangail-3, in the murder case of party leader Faruq Ahmed, a freedom fighter, reports UNB.

On September 17, following a petition, the High Court asked the police not to arrest or harass Amanur and his three other siblings without the due process of law. Responding to a state petition, a five-member Appellate Division bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice M Muzammel Hossain, passed the order after a brief hearing.

Passing the order, the apex court said the stay order will continue till the disposal of the HC rule in this regard.

Train engine diverges into platform in Ctg rail station

3 employees suspended, no casualties

STAFF REPORTER

A train engine diverged off the track and crashed into a platform at Chittagong Railway Station on Wednesday morning during replacement of compartments. The floor, glasses and the engine were damaged due to the crash. No one was injured during the incident as there were no passengers at the time on the platform.

According to Additional Chief Engineer at the railway station, Mafizur Rahman, the engine along with a compartment veered off the track and got onto the platform no-4 of the station around 5:30am while replacing compartments of the 'Mohanagar Provati' train bound for Dhaka taking those from Pahartali dock.

The train which was scheduled to leave the station for Dhaka around 7.00am left the station 50 minutes later. Two probe committees -- one headed by Rasheda Sultana Goni, chief commercial officer of Railway east zone, and another headed by Feroz Akhter, divisional transport officer-- were formed to investigate the reason behind the incident

Several hours after the train accident, the railway authorities suspended three of its employees for negligence in duties. The suspended employees are ATM Jahurul Haque, driver of the train engine, its assistant driver Imran Hossain, and points man Jahangir Alam. Divisional Transport Officer, Feroz Akhter said the decision came following the report of the probe committee.

Any attempt to create anarchy will be strongly dealt with: Tofail

DHAKA: Awami League Advisory Council member and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday said any attempt to create anarchy in the name of movement would be dealt with iron hand, reports BSS.

"Keep in mind it's not 2013, it's 2014. If any move is carried out to create indiscipline in the country will strongly be dealt with," the senior leader of the ruling Awami League said in an oblique reference to BNP's threat to launch an anti-government movement. Tofail Ahmed said this while speaking as the chief guest at the triennial council of Dhaka District unit Awami Swechchasebak League (ASL) at the Institution of Engineers auditorium in the city.

Acting president of Dhaka District unit Awami Swechchasebak League (ASL) Mahbubur Rahman Bepari chaired the council, also addressed, among others, by Dhaka City Awami League joint secretary and Food Minister Advocate Quamrul Islam, ASL president Advocate Mollah Md Abu Kowser and general secretary Pankaj Debnath, MP. Touring to BNP's plea for dialogue, Tofail Ahmed said, "BNP has now been appealing to the government for a dialogue like an orphan. But, BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia rejected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's dialogue offer given over telephone earlier.



This is not an art exhibition of some renowned painter, but an underpass at Gabtoli which was inaugurated and opened for public use yesterday. Photo: Banglar Chokh



Rahman DHAKA: A court here on Wednesday

issued warrant of arrest against BNP senior vice chairman Tarique Rahman in a defamation case filed for his "disremarks" paraging against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB. Dhaka Metropolitan magistrate

Ataul Haque issued the arrest warrant upon a petition filed by complainant M Monir Khan, an assistant secretary of Bangladesh Awami League central sub-committee.

The court also fixed January 29, 2015 for the concerned thana to submit an execution report on the arrest warrant.

Earlier, on November 17, a Tk 100 crore defamation case was filed in a Dhaka CMM court against Tarique Rahman for his "disparaging remarks" on Bangabandhu.



Namaz Timings

Today

Start Jamaat

05:12 AM 05:45 AM Fajr Zohr 11:57 PM 01:15 PM 03:36PM 04:15 PM Magrib 05:16 PM 05:18 PM 06:37 PM 07:30 PM

Tahajjud After midnight Source: Islamic Foundation

SUNSET : 05:13 PM **SUNRISE**

: 06:31 AM



Two policemen, Shahinoor and Rezaul Karim, assistant sub-inspectors of

Assailants attack police convoy, snatches away accused

MYMENSINGH: Unidentified assailants attacked a police convoy, stabbed two policemen and snatched away a man accused of a tree felling case in Muktagacha upazila of the district yesterday, reports BSS.

The incident took place in Chandpur area, said, Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Muktagacha Police Station. Two policemen, Shahinoor Rahman Shaheen and Rezaul Karim, assistant sub-inspectors of Muktagacha Police Station, sustained injuries on the head and body, he said. Ten months ago in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh, assailants attacked a police convoy and snatched away a militant. Police launched a crackdown in the area to detain those accused in cases filed by the local forest department around 12.30 pm, OC Kamal Hossain said.

"From there, the police held one Babul Miah, son of Jalal Uddin of Chandpur. The convoy was attacked when the policemen were escorting the him to the police station." "The assailants attacked the convoy with sharp weapons. They snatched away the accused and stabbed two policemen indiscriminately, leaving them injured critically and fled the scene," the OC added. The two wounded policemen were first rushed to Muktagacha Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH).

NATIONAL



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique on Wednesday delivering a seminar organized by the university aiming to mobile the youth to combat against drugs to touch the real flavor of human being.

Drugs to degrade: DU VC

Habibur Rahman Ovi DU Correspondent:

Dhaka University in association with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Nations Information Center (UNIC) in Dhaka organized an open seminar on Mobilizing Youth to Combat Drugs for a Healthy Lifestyle.

The program was held on Wednesday at the NABAB NAWAB ALI CHOWDHURY SENATE BHABAN of the university by DU authority with the cooperation of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) Vienna, Austria.

Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "A person who has been taking drugs just for a long time, returning in normal life is so rare case, a journey towards darkness".

"Even the drug addicts do not know why they are taking these killing materials and how it is endangering their lifestyle and what

the actual procedures to return in their normal life", he added.

The family members of the addicts, the civil society must shake hands with the government body and NGO's to back them in positive life", Professor Siddique

Addressing the youth he said, "Enjoy your time with the innovative ingredients to reshape the world aiming to ensure a sound environment for all, rather mixing with the ill-companions and unhealthy drinks".

Chaired by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, UNODC Executive Director and Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) Yury Fedotov presented the key-note paper at the seminar while Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present on the occasion as guests of honour.

Conference on global social responsibility today

DHAKA: The 3rd Global Social Responsibility Conference will be held today at the Radisson Blu hotel in the capital city, reports UNB.

Commerce minister Tofail Ahmed will inaugurate the conference, organised by Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BGCCI).

State minister for labour and employment Md. Mujibul Haque Chunnu, Ambassador and the head of delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh Pierre Mayaudon and Charg, d'Affaires of German Embassy Dr. Ferdinand von Weyhe will attend the conference. Business leaders, economists, industry experts and representatives from leading local and global companies will participate in the daylong conference.

The focus of the 3rd conference is discussions about "Shareholder Value Vs Social Responsibility". The keynote presentations and panel discussions will cover the readymade garment (RMG) industry and fire safety, leather industry, environment, social protection of workers and technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

"The 3rd Global Social Responsibility Conference will not only present European businesses that will share their socially responsible best practices, but also American companies which have been distinguished by introducing innovative environmental solutions into Bangladesh," said BGCCI in a statement. On the sideline of the main conference, there will be a painting show titled "Painting for Joy", an exhibition of paintings by the survivors of the Rana Plaza tragedy. BGCCI organised the first and the second Global Social Responsibility conferences in Dhaka in 2010 and 2013

President happy over observance of International **Mountain Day**

DHAKA: President Abdul Hamid has wished a success International Mountain Day to observed tomorrow in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world, reports UNB.

In a message on the eve of the day, the president said that he is delighted to know that the day is going to be observed by the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs for the second time in the country.

He hoped that observance of the day would increase awareness of the livelihood and culture of hill tracts and other hill regions of Bangladesh. He also hoped that the day would play a role in improving the standard of lives to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change.

He said the day's theme-'Mountain Farming'-would ensuring fundamental elements for a sustainable development of the people of the hill tracts.

Freedom fighter hacked dead in Naogaon

NAOGAON: A freedom fighter was hacked to death and another person injured in an attack by a group of miscreants at Ayapur village in Patnitala upazila on Tuesday midnight, reports

The deceased Nazim identified as Uddin,65, son of late Mofizuddin, a resident of Merulia village in the same upazila.

Police said a gang of unknown miscreants attacked Nazim and his associate Belal Hossain in the area and chopped them indiscriminately with sharp weapons while they were returning home at about 12.00 am, leaving Nazim dead on the spot and Belal seriously injured.

Hearing their screams, local people rescued Belal and took him to Patnitala upazila health complex where doctors referred him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Informed, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for an autopsy. Abdur Rafiq, officer-in-charge of Patnitala Police Station, said Nazim might have been killed over previous enmity.

Germany to provide 60mn Euros for power transmission dev

DHAKA: Germany is going to provide assistance worth 60 million Euros to Bangladesh for improving power transmission in the country's western region, reports UNB.

The German government through KfW Development Bank will lend its support for the first time in the country's power sector under the 'Improvement of Power Transmission in the Western Zone' project.

Of the 60 million Euros concessional assistance, the German government will provide 45 million Euros as loan while the rest of 15 million Euros will come as grant, Economic Relations Division (ERD) Additional Secretary Abul Mansur Md Faizullah told UNB.

He said Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) will implement the project while a feasibility study on the project is nearing completion.

The senior ERD official further said

the agreement with the German government on the assistance will be signed next week.

He said the KfW is expected to come up with an assistance amounting to 138 million Euros in 2016 to improve country's power transmission lines as well as also likely to provide another 20 million Euros to Bangladesh in 2016 for urban development in Barisal and Satkhira.

The German government is likely to come up with that funding in power transmission and urban development as per its commitment for 2015-16.

KfW Development Bank is one of the major implementing agencies of German Development Cooperation. On behalf of the German Federal

government, KfW finances investments and advisory services.

In Bangladesh, German Development Cooperation started working when the country gained its independence in 1971. In the framework of German Development Cooperation, KfW's activities in Bangladesh focus on energy efficiency renewable energy, health sector including family planning and governance and local development.

Meanwhile, Germany has provided a total of \$ 1788.1 million foreign aid to Bangladesh since the country's independence, including \$ 1520.2 million in grants and \$ 267.9 million in loans, according to the flow of external resources for 2012-13 fiscal year released by the ERD.

JS body meeting on Women, children affairs ministry held

DHAKA: The parliamentary standing committee on Women and Children Affairs Ministry in a meeting yesterday endorsed some resolutions including formation of a research cell for women development and creation of new jobs for rural womenfolk.

In its 8th meeting, with the concerned standing committee chairman Rebeka Momin in the chair, assigned the Women and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University to conduct the research cell on force marriage, age of marriage and right to pregnancy through a reputed Research Institution of the country.

Associate Professor Dr Syed Shaikh Imtiaz will oversee the activities of the research cell which would collect necessary information from each district throughout the country, said a press release.

The meeting took decision to set up a stall with the goods of "Joyeta'Anneshan" in the upcoming International Trade Fair 2015 in

The resolutions also include the involvement of all representatives of Union

Parishad under the ongoing Training Development Package of VGD (vulnerable group development) Circle of 2015-2016.

Secretary of women and children affairs ministry, director general of women affairs directorate, director of Bangladesh Shishu Academy and other concerned officials of the ministry and Jatiya Sangsad were present in the meeting.

Weekly tea sale sees widespread demand prices in sellers favour

CHITTAGONG: Weekly tea sale here Tuesday was marked by widespread demand with Blenders operating strongly amid more interest from the Loose tea buyers, reports

Once again prices moved in Sellers' favour while good liquoring Dusts were again a strong feature of the sale, according to a market report.

New Unicef Representative in **BD** assumes office

Beigbeder on Wednesday assumed his duties as the new Unicef Representative in Bangladesh, reports UNB. As a development and emergency specialist, he has

over 20 years of experience of working to further children's and women's rights around the world. As the new Unicef Representative, Beigbeder, presented his credentials to Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at his office while at the same time reaffirming Unicef's continued support to the government of Bangladesh, so that every

child reaches their full potential. Prior to his arrival in Bangladesh, Beigbeder was Unicef Representative in Haiti from June 2012 to November 2014 where he was responsible for Unicef's strategic direction in the country.

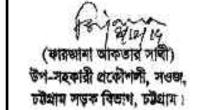


The victim's relatives attending at national press club marking the Human Rights Day with the assurance of government's attention in implementing the identified culprits within immediate period. Fundamental Rights Preservation Committee organized the program on Wednesday. **Photo: Banglar Chokh**

গণপ্রজাতত্ত্বী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ চট্টপ্ৰাম সভক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টথাম। रकाम : ००५-२४७०२७२, मानि: ००५-२४९०५४८ E-mail: eechi@rhd.gov.bd

এতহারা সংশিষ্ট সকলেন থাবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচেছ যে, অত্র সভুক বিভাগাধীন দরপত্র নংe-GP/38/EE/CTG/RHD/2014-15 (ID-15909) श्रीयकारकी दोशायन नवकारक e-GP Portal अव মাশ্যমে আহ্বান করা হয়েছে: যা ০৮/১২/২০১৪ইং হতে উলেবিত পোর্টালে পাওয়া ঘাছে। e-Tender Document Download এর শেষ ভারিখ ৩৬/০১/২০১৫ইং বিকাপ ৪:০০ টা পর্যন্ত। e-GP Portal এ নিবন্ধিত যে কোন আইটা ব্যক্তি/ঠিকানারী প্রতিষ্ঠান বিভারিত জ্ঞানার www.eprocure.gov.bd ভিতিট করতে পারবেন।

Tender/ Proposal ID	Name of Work
15909 e-GP/38/EE/CTG/RHD/2014-15	Repairing of damaged pavement by base type- il, repair of potholes, carpeting & seal coat etc. works at 1 st (p), 5 th (p), 6 th (p) & 7 th (p) Km. of Muhurigonj-Chittagong Beriband Road (Z-1084) under Chittagong Road Division during the year 2014-2015.



GD-1758/14 (7x4)

সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (চ:দা:), সওজ, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশপী, সভজ চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও প: প: কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।

স্মারক নং- উস্বাক / নিকলী / দরপত্র / ২০১৪-১৫/

তারিখ : ০৪/১২/১৪ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কিশোরগঞ্জ জেলাধীন নিকলী উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্সের ২০১৪-১৫ইং অর্থ বছরের জন্য রোগীদের খাদ্যদ্রব্য ও পথ্যাদি সরবরাহ, স্টেশনারী ও বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ এবং লিনেন সামগ্রী ধোলাই এর নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার / সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র দাখিলের নিয়মাবলী এবং দরপত্রের যাবতীয় বিবরণ ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত আছে। দরপত্র দাখিলে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব লেটারহেড প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে প্রতিটি দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ (অফেরতযোগ্য) সোনালী ব্যাংক নিকলী শাখা অথবা অন্য কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও প: প: কর্মকর্তা, নিকলী কিশোরগঞ্জ-এর অনুকূলে নির্ধারিত মূল্যমানের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার জমাদানপূর্বক আগামী ১৩/১২/২০১৪ইং হতে ২৮/১২/২০১৪ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় অথবা সিভিল সার্জন, কিশোরগঞ্জ কার্যালয় হতে দরপত্র সিডিউল ও শর্তাবলী সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য
٥٥	হাসপাতালে ভর্তি রোগীদের খাদ্যদ্রব্য ও পথ্যাদি সরবরাহ।	¢00/-
०२	স্টেশনারী ও বিবিধ মালমাল সরবরাহ।	800/-
೦೨	লিনেন সামগ্রী ধৌতকরণ।	800/-

দরপত্র আগামী ২৯/১২/২০১৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ের রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং ঐদিনই বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকায় নিমুস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়/গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

> ডাঃ মোঃ আবদুল মজিদ উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও প: প: কর্মকর্তা নিকলী, কিশোরগঞ্জ।



Various NGO's separately brought out rallies in observance of the International Human Rights Day 2014 in

Int'l Human Rights Day observed across the country

International Human rights Day 2014 was observed across the country ensuring the fundamental rights that all people are entitled to as a global community.

Our Magura correspondent Rokibul Hoque Dipu reports that, International Human Rights Day 2014 was observed in Magura on Wednesday.Voluntary organization Rova Foundation with the assistance of Manusher Jonna Foundation took different programs in observance of the day. They brought out a rally in the town in the morning. Subsequently they arranged a discussion meeting at Atar Ali public library premises. Magura district board administrator Syed Shariful Islam was the chief guest in the meeting with Rova foundation executive director Kazi Kamruzzaman in the chair.

Our Jhenaidah correspondent S I Mallick reports that, a discussion meeting was held in observance of the

Basic training with

arms for female

Ansar-VDP begins

RANGPUR: The three-week

long basic training course with

arms for the female members

Police (VDP) forces began here

from Tuesday at Mahiganj

Regional Ansar-VDP Training

Centre in the city, reports BSS.

Rangpur Divisional Range

Director of Ansar-VDP Dulal

Chandra Sarker formally

inaugurated the training course at a ceremony arranged

there on the occasion as the

chief guest with its District

The district and upazila level

officials of Ansar-VDP and

organisational and non-

persons and trainers attended

the inaugural ceremony of the

participated by 40 female VDP

members of the district.

course

Commander

organisational

training

Rahman in the chair.

Mahbubur

resource

being

International Human Rights Day 2014 Foundation and Dishari social welfare at the cultural office of KC College Campus in Jhenaidah on Wednesday. Human Rights Organization of Jhenaidah district organized the meeting. Professor of Amena Khatun Degree College and Human Rights official Aminur Rahman Tuku was present as the chief guest on the meeting. Various officials of different organizations were also present at the meeting. On the other hand in Kaliganj upazila programs including bringing out a rally and discussion meeting was held in observance of the International Human Rights Day 2014.

Our Narail correspondent Humaun Kabir Rintu reports that, International Human Rights Day 2014 was observed in Narail with a call for ensuring universal human rights of every citizen on Wednesday. NGO's like Shushilan, Banchte Shekha, Narail district Human Rights counselor unit. Adikar. Roya

separately organized rally and discussion meeting held in observance of the International Human Rights Day 2014.

Kurigram correspondent Badshah Saikat reports that, human chain, rally and discussion meeting was organized held in observance of the International Human Rights Day 2014 on Wednesday. A human chain was formed in front of Kurigram press club with the co operation of sociocultural organization Adhikar in the afternoon. Later a rally was brought out from Kurigram press club premises which paraded the major parts of the town. A discussion meeting was held at the hall room of Kurigram press club. Convener of Ain o Salish Kendra(ASK) Raju Mostafiz presided over the meeting. President of Kurigram press club professor Nazmun Nahar Beauty, Syeda Yasmin Rupa, Adv Ahsan Habib Nilu etc spoke at the meeting.

During the Liberation War the Pakistani army used the hostel rooms of Jamalpur Ashek Mahmud Degree College as torture cell. Photo: M Sultan Alam

Jamalpur Liberation Day today

M Sultan Alam, Jamalpur Correspondent

Today is a memorable day in the history of Jamalpur district.

Jamalpur was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces on December 11 in 1971. National flag was hoisted on Primary Training Institute (PTI) premises, the then headquarters of 31 Baluch Regiment of the

occupation forces. During the Liberation

War, indiscriminate killings, looting and

rapes took place everyday in the district. The

occupation army and their cohorts set ablaze villages, rendering thousands of people shelterless. On 10th December Freedom fighters along with the allied force launched a violent attack on the Pakistani occupation forces and after a 24 hour hard fought battle freedom fighters finally defeated Pakistani army and hoisted National flag on old WAPDA building. During the battle 235 Pakistani armies were killed and 376 Pak armies surrendered. On the other hand 11

people of the allied force were martyred.

A total of 245 female VDP members have been taking part training course with arms at eight district headquarters in Rangpur division with 40 each in Rangpur, Dinajpur and Kurigram and 25 each in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha district.

The last leg of the basic training course has begun from December 6 last as a part the countrywide programme in four phases and VDP members of different platoons aged between 18 and 30 years have taking part.

The speakers said the Ansar-VDP members have been effectively maintaining peace in the society through curbing crimes and also contributing effectively in building congenial atmosphere to accelerate rural uplift for building a developed society.

The Ansar-VDP members should properly utilize their training experiences and create awareness about reproductive health, safe motherhood, sanitation. nutrition. education. agriculture, tree plantation ensure smooth development of the rural people, they said.

Foggy weather disrupts ferry services on Shemulia-Kewrakandi route

Upazila Correspondent

Ferry services on the Shemulia-Kewrakandi route remained suspended for 12 hours on Tuesday night due to dense fog. The ferry services could not be restored till filing of this report at 9.00 am on Wednesday.

Foggy weather is being experienced in the country for about a week with the advent of the winter. Fog also disturbs movement of motor vehicles on roads and highways, but its effect on inland water communication is particularly felt more, as river transports miss channels and hit shaols due to poor visibility.

Ahmed Ali, marine officer of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) informed that, river communications on the route was suspended at 9.30 pm due to poor visibility caused by dense fog. As a result,

Abu Naser Khan Limon, Lohajang nine ferries-Beer Shresta Ruhul Amin, Korobi, Raipura, Faridpur, Ranikhet, Taplu, Raniganj, Kalmilata and Kakoli remained stranded in the middle of the river Padma. Hundreds of vehicles and thousands of passengers waited on both sides of the river from Tuesday night.

Mobile court convicts hemp trader in Faridpur

FARIDPUR: A mobile court yesterday convicted one person and awarded six months simple imprisonment for trading huge quantity of hemp (Ganja) in Sadar upazilla of this district, reports BSS.

According to official sources, on the basis of secret information gathered by RAB-8 a mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Rubayet Hayat Shiplu carried on drive in village Maharajpur under Sadar upazilla.

200 victims of river eros on get blankets in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA: Some 200 River eroded people of Singria village under Udakhali union of Fulchhari upazila got blankets from non-governmental organizations on Tuesday, reports BSS.

An online based voluntary organization Dhakastha Gaibandhabashi and the Distressed Children and Infants International (DCIL) have distributed about 200 blankets among the cold affected and particularly the river eroded people living on the Brahmaputra riverside

Cold wave has been sweeping over the northern districts for the last few days creating untold sufferings to the poor who are living on the Brahmaputra riverside.

Chief coordinator of Dhakashta Gaibandhabasi Saiful Islam, representative of DCII Muhammad Jesmul Hossain, union parishad chairman Abdul Baki Sarker, Fulchhari upazila press club president Aminul Islam and general secretary Shah Alam Jadu were present on the blankets distribution cermony.

Shivering cold disrupts normal life in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI: Normal life, particularly of the poor and the distressed is being affected by the shivering cold together with dense fog and chilly wind in the city and its adjacent areas during the past three days, reports BSS.

People living in the slums and chars on the Ganges basin are the worst sufferers. as they are experiencing the bite of the cold much more than those of the mainland. Meteorological Office recorded country's lowest temperature of 10.4 degrees here Celsius today (Wednesday) while Monday's temperature was 10.2 degrees Celsius.

of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), the number of patients suffering from cold-related diseases like asthma, cough and other respiratory disorders has mounted significantly due to the cold weather.

"Basically, we are facing trouble to accommodate and manage the patients as all the medicine wards including the pediatrics have become overcrowded." said Associate Professor Dr Mahbubur Rahman Khan of Medicine Department.

He said many of the patients are passing their days and nights with great miseries on floors and even in the verandah of the hospital.

Speakers call for stopping coaching-dependent education

dependent education as a curse of the nation speakers at a discussion said adequate measures should be taken to stop the malpractices at once, reports BSS.

They said note books and guidebooks should be banned completely to make the education classroom-oriented. Quality of education could be ensured through improving inter-relations between students-teachers and management, they

The observation came at a workshop on 'Improvement of Education' held at Rajshahi College auditorium in the city yesterday. Various issues relating to uplifting educational standard were discussed at the workshop.

Prime Minister's Education Support Trust and Department of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education jointly organized the workshop.

Nurul Amin, Managing Director of the trust, Helaluddin Ahmed, Commissioner of Rajshahi division, addressed the inaugural session as chief and special guests respectively with Dr Shormin Ferdous Chowdhury, Deputy Director of Department of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, in the chair.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Mejbah Uddin Chowdhury, Chairman of Rajshahi Education Board Prof Abdur Rouf Mian and Principal of Rajshahi College Prof Habibur Rahman also spoke. In his keynote presentation, Abdullah Al Mamun, Senior Assistant Secretary of Education Support Trust, gave an overview of the trust and its activities.

Highlighting the importance of the trust, chief guest Nurul Amin said the rate of student dropouts due to financial crisis have reduced significantly in recent years Academic life of the poor but meritorious students from class six to graduation will not be hampered any more.

He said the government formed the trust fund with a capital of Taka 1,000 crore and a target has been set to transform the capital into Taka 10,000 crore.

In 2011-12 fiscal year, stipend worth over Taka 98.03 crore were disbursed among 1,76,446 undergraduate students for the first time. Each of the students received Taka 5,620.

Divisional Commissioner Helaluddin Ahmed in his speech said the trust fund has been contributing a lot to reduce student drop-out rates coupled with child marriage, particularly in the rural areas.

Putting emphasis on improving the quality of teachers, Deputy Commissioner Mejbah Uddin Chowdhury transparency should be maintained in the process of appointment of teachers. Recruitment of teachers through management committee should be stopped immediately.

It is high time to bring discipline and coordination in the education sector, he

Board Chairman Prof Abdur Rouf said the standard of education cannot be elevated until accountability and responsibility among teachers' is ensured. Teachers should take the responsibility of upholding dignity and image of their respective institutions.

Around 75 participants representing the government, teachers' organizations, development groups, academic Upazila and district institutions, administration, learners and professional leaders attended the workshop.



JUST Vice-chancellor Professor Abdus Sattar conferring crests to the two professors of 'Prefectural University of Hiroshima, Japan'.

Japan Prefectural University professors visit JUST

Mirza Badruzzaman Tunu Jessore correspondent

Two professors of 'Prefectural University of Hiroshima, Japan', have recently visited Jessore Science & Technology University (JSTU) aiming to investigate the entire education policy and to provide special scholarship for the JUST students.

Department of life science dean, Professor Kohei Irifune and dept. of environment science chairman, Professor Hiroko Harada of of Prefectural University of Hiroshima on

Monday attended a seminar organized by JUST at the conference room where many of students participated in the function.

JUST public relation Hayatuzzaman informed The Bangladesh Today that the two foreign professors were given warm reception led by Jessore Science & Technology University Vice-chancellor Professor Abdus Sattar.

Professor Abdus Sattar visited 'Prefectural University of Hiroshima, Japan' on last November 5 by the special invitation of the university authority.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka:

Corrigendum of Local Re-Tender Notice

Memo No. 44.01,0000.022.02.016.2014 [13533

Date: 10 December 2014,

Invintion for Locat Re-tender notice Published in different national dailies as per Memo no- 44.01.0000.022.02.016.2014/13255(4) Date: 24 November 2014 for procurement of Leg shir Quard for Male & VIP Helmet (White) in PY 2014-2015 is hereby amended as follows:

81 No	Description	Published	Revised
	Propurement method	Open tendering method (OTM), International	Open tendering method (OTM) National (Local)
2	Tender Selling tast date	17 December 2014	22 December 2014
3	Tender closing date and time	18 December 2014 at 14,00 hrs.	23 December 2014 at 14:00 hrs.
4	Tender opening date and time	18 December 2014 at 14:30 hrs.	23 December 2014 at 14.30 hrs
3	Other torras and canditio	ns shall remain anchonged	

AIG (Equipment) Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka. Phone 9585304, Fax: + 88 02 9585304 E-mail : eige trapolice gov.bd

GD-1764/14 (5x4)



Acting Editor & Publisher: Jobaer Alam Telephone: +8802-9104683-84, Fax: 9127103 e-mail: editor@thebangladeshtoday.com

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Increasing production for food security

Agriculture continues to be too vital for the food security of Bangladesh and its macro economic stability. Growing imports of food products with the country's rising forex reserve had been possible in the past. But such imports climbing and stressing the reserve on a regular basis, could seriously strain the country's macro economy or balance of payments position .

Needless to say, the record of production of the basic staplerice-has been particularly good in recent years. There has been no need to import any amount of rice in the last three years. Government is even considering the allowing of export of some quantities of fine or aromatic rice from Bangladesh. This is an unprecedented or matchless record of the country's agricultural performance. Sound governmental policies as well as favourable weather have worked to make this happen. However, the current successes in rice production do not provide any absolute guarantee that production at the present level will underwrite the country's food security long into the future.

Experts are impressed with the present rate of production but they say that productivity will have to be continuously raised for meeting future challenges on a sustainable basis. The population of Bangladesh was some 75 million in 1971 but this population is over 150 million today or a doubled one in over four decades. The annual average of rice production was some 11 million tons in 1971which has increased to 26 million tons in recent years depending on normal production without facing natural calamities. But still, even in the last decade, food grain production was found short of total effective demand by at least half a million tons on average which had to be met by imports.

The country's population would likely increase by some 20 million in the next twenty years and food grain production must at least rise proportionately to go on maintaining a balance between population growth and food supply. But agricultural lands are being put increasingly into non agricultural uses. Some 20 per cent of agricultural lands have been lost from this process during the last 30 years, according to one estimate.

In this situation, only increasing the per hectare yield of food grains seems to be the way forward for Bangladesh to keep on matching higher demands with adequate supplies. The present average output is about 3 tons per hectare which must be raised to 5 tons. This is possible because Bangladesh's soil fertility is good. Countries such as Japan and Korea with less fertile soil are growing 5-6 tons per hectare. There is no reason why we cannot match or surpass the productivity of these countries given the facts that we possess a much greater comparative advantage compared to them in the form of highly fertile soil and better weather conditions too.

The Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) has so far invented 47 new higher yielding varieties of rice. But only a handful of them have been popularized although there are at least a dozen varieties which can yield substantially higher outputs than the ones which are being cultivated. The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) needs to maintain regular liaison with BRRI and undertake a countrywide programme for the new varieties of seeds developed by the latter to actually find widespread field level applications.

Climate Fiction Fantasy

Jacon Mark

At least, Hollywood seems to think so. When it comes to the steady unraveling of essential earth systems - ocean health collapsing, biodiversity plummeting and, of course, the fraying of the atmosphere's stability - much of the political establishment continues to whistle past the graveyard. Filmmakers, meanwhile, are sending out an S O S: We're doomed.

Is the premise fiction? Only partly. And not in the way you may think. The most fantastical thing about some of these films isn't their doomsday scenarios. No, the real stretch is the idea that humanity or at least some privileged slice of it - will be able to remove itself from the disaster.

The latest example is the writer-director Christopher Nolan's epic sci-fi adventure, "Interstellar." With Earth on the brink of collapse as crops wither and oxygen in the atmosphere dwindles, a team of astronauts race to distant galaxies in search of a new planet for the human race. Earth's last survivors won't starve, we are told. They will suffocate

Such end-of-the-world scenarios appear so regularly in books and films that they are now their own mini-genre - cli-fi. The threats are not necessarily always climate related; the impending disaster in "Interstellar" seems to be as much biological as atmospheric.

Cli-fi literature includes Margaret Atwood's dark MaddAddam trilogy, Nathaniel Rich's "Odds Against Tomorrow" and Jennifer Egan's Pulitzer Prize-winning "A Visit From the Goon Squad," which closes with New Yorkers flocking to the top of a giant sea wall, one of the few spots in the city where you can still glimpse a proper sunset.

In this time of global warming, cli-fi made an early splash with "Waterworld," Kevin Costner's campy 1995 vision of a future where the polar icecaps have melted and Earth is almost entirely submerged. It took almost a decade for the next major cli-fi blockbuster to arrive: Roland Emmerich's storm-porn extravaganza, "The Day After Tomorrow." While that movie had its fair share of Hollywood cheese (there was a wolf pack chase through Midtown Manhattan), the film at least made an attempt to detail the basic science of anthropogenic climate change. The protagonist, Dennis Quaid, was a climatologist. Since then, cli-fi films have gotten grimmer. In "The Day After Tomorrow," we watched a climate disaster unfold. In others, ecological Armageddon has gone from plot point to scenery, the post-apocalypse being a perfect set for directors to stage their allegories. So we get movies like "Elysium," in which Matt Damon fights to get off a dusty, overcrowded Earth and make it to an Arcadian space station. Pixar's "Wall-E" had a similar scenario. In that computer-animated satire, Earth is toast, and what's left of humanity spends its days slurping supersize drinks and splurge-shopping on a blimplike spaceship. In "Avatar," the Marines are on the planet Pandora, because we've already strip-mined Earth.

Perhaps the best of this bunch is "Snowpiercer," the Korean director Bong Joon-ho's fable about social injustice and environmental hubris. Released earlier this year, "Snowpiercer" imagines that civilization - in a botched attempt to reverse the effects of global warming via atmospheric geoengineering - has turned Earth into something like the ice world of Hoth from "Star Wars."

- The New York Times Jason Mark is editor of the environmental quarterly Earth Island Journal.

The geopolitics of Putin's visit to India

MONISH GULATI

As Moscow, driven by the economic crises, looks to New Delhi to diversify economic ties, the Modi government must reciprocate years of goodwill

Russian President Vladimir Putin will be in New Delhi today to attend the 15th annual India-Russia Summit. The yearly meeting of the leaders of Russia and India, alternatively hosted by Moscow and New Delhi, was last held in Moscow in October 2013. The current visit will be the first full-fledged summit between the two countries after the Narendra Modi government took office in New Delhi. About 15 important bilateral documents are expected to be signed, including some in the field of military-technical cooperation, in what will be Putin's fifth visit to India as the Russian President.

To put the visit in perspective, it is important to take stock of certain international developments relating to Russia, which have preceded this visit. First and the most overbearing issue is the state of the Russian economy, which is reeling under the triple blow from US-European Union (EU) sanctions post the Ukraine crisis, falling price of oil - which is Russia's major source of income - and the impact of fast depreciating Russian currency, coupled with the flight of foreign capital from the country.

The Russian finance minister recently disclosed that his country was losing \$40 billion (Dh147.12 billion) a year due to sanctions, around \$100 billion on account of falling oil prices and some \$130 billion in capital flight. The Russian economy is entering its second recession since 2005,

with inflation expected to be in double digits by the beginning of 2015.

Second is the quantum and direction of Russian energy relations. On November 9, Russia signed a memorandum with China to supply natural gas through the western route, which will connect fields in western Siberia with northwest China through the Altai republic. The agreement provides for the export of 30 billion cubic metres (bcm) of Russian gas to China annually for a 30-year period, scalable at a later date to 100 bcm per year. In May this year, Gazprom and China National Petroleum Corporation had signed a purchase and sales contract along an eastern route to China from the Siberian gas fields to supply 38 bcm of natural gas annually from 2018, again for a period of 30 years. With the addition of a western route, potential Russian gas supplies to China may exceed the current levels of export to Europe in the medium-term perspective.

More recently, after seven years of negotiations, Russia announced its decision to shelve its South Stream pipeline project. South Stream is a \$50 billion gas pipeline, which was first announced in June 2007 and was expected to run across the Black Sea to Southern and Central Europe. Moscow now plans to develop a "gas hub" for supply to southern Europe via Turkey. While the official reason was inability to comply with the EU's internal market legislation, analysts cite another reason: The falling EU gas demand and availability of alternative

From the year that South Stream was

announced until 2014, the International Energy Agency has revised its EU gas demand forecasts for the year 2030 downwards by 18 percent. The net effect is that Russia is looking for fresh markets for its energy in Asia even as China is leveraging its position to negotiate long-term contracts for Russian gas at cheap rates.

Third is the refreshing of Russia-Pakistan relations. The two countries, on November 20, signed their first military cooperation agreement and laid out future avenues of cooperation in this domain. Sergei Shoigu, the first Russian defence minister to visit Pakistan since 1969, said joint naval exercises will be a key feature of future cooperation with Pakistan, besides military officer exchanges, arms sales and counternarcotics and counter-terrorism cooperation. Bilateral military cooperation is expected to have a more practical orientation and enhance the combat capability of the armed forces of the two countries.

Fourth is the impact of retaliatory Russian trade restrictions on western supply of commodities. In response to the sanctions imposed by the US and EU nations on Russia over its continued support of separatists in Ukraine, Russia banned in August this year import of meat, fish, dairy, fruit and vegetables from the US, EU, Canada, Australia and Norway for one year. Russia is now looking for partners to bridge this supply gap and India senses an opportunity here. Recently, Russia has allowed import of buffalo meat from four Indian companies to the territory of the

Customs Union (of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan). There are also plans to certify other Indian agricultural producers to supply poultry, powdered eggs and dairy products. Defence cooperation remains the lynchpin of Indo-Russian engagement despite the fact that the sector has been constrained by issues of cost overruns, quality of technology transfers and individual shares in joint development of weapon systems. Modi's 'Make in India' initiative, especially in defence and infrastructure, seems to have reinvigorated the defence sector. Agreements already signed within the prospective framework of joint research, development, designing and production, including the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) project and Multi-role Transport Aircraft (MTA) have got a relook. Joint production of MC-21 midrange civilian aircraft and KA-226 helicopters is also under consideration along with a tripartite agreement for the development of the BrahMos "mini missile" Besides being a crucial source of energy, nuclear technology and armaments, Russia has consistently backed India's stand on Kashmir and both countries currently share a common perspective on key global issues, including cross-border terrorism, Afghanistan and Iran. The cooperation with Pakistan is best seen as a Russian effort to make its influence effective in Af-Pak region.

- IANS

Monish Gulati is associate director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi.

Lure of separatism a thing of the past?

RAVI MENON

Strange as this may sound, Modi's mantra of development has perhaps pushed identity politics to the background in Indian Kashmir

The unexpectedly high turnout in the ongoing state elections in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is puzzling. Is it a triumph of democracy and an end to the politics of boycott or is it just a passing moment in that state's troubled history; a history replete with paradoxes and many twists and turns?

The Pakistani wife of a one-time boycotter campaigning in these elections is certainly unique: The use of a Pakistani television channel for canvassing votes is equally exceptional and that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a party that has on and off talked about repelling Article 370, should be a serious contender for power, is baffling.

for power, is baffling.

Going back in time, the very first paradox is that J&K should be a part of India. Demography and the principle of contiguity should automatically have made this princely state a part of Pakistan. There has also been much controversy surrounding the Radcliffe Line, which partitioned united India. If Gurdaspur in undivided Punjab had been awarded to Pakistan, there would have been no land access to Kashmir from the Indian cide.

Next, strange as this may sound, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of development has perhaps pushed identity politics to the background and the voter standing in long queues in the blistering cold is not engaged with the larger questions of statehood and independence, but with simple day to day issues of basic amenities, better schools and medical facilities. No different from a voter in Karnataka or Maharashtra. It is nevertheless an irony that Modi, who until recently was reviled as one of the most divisive leaders India has seen, should have provided this impetus for driving identity politics to the margins.

Ironies, however, abound and the political journey of Sajjad Gani Lone from a boycotter to an active participant in these elections and a possible ally of the BJP in the state is one of them. Equally remarkable is his wife, Asma Khan Lone's decision to campaign for him, for she is the only daughter of Amanullah Khan, the co-founder of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

Sajjad at one time accused Pakistanbased elements of having assassinated his father Abdul Gani Lone, the founder of the People's Conference. He has since recalibrated his stand and chosen to mute his utterances on this subject. Asma is a Pakistani citizen and an active politician and not a housewife supporting her husband's campaign. She has not renounced her Pakistani passport and is the sole heir to her father's legacy. Amanullah was the chief architect of the armed struggle in 1988 to end Indian rule

in Kashmir.

Among the many surprises of these elections none can be more astonishing than the BJP's use of Pakistani soap to reach audiences in J&K. In between commercial breaks of popular Pakistani serials like Mastana Mahi and Badi Aapa, Modi's message in chaste Urdu is repeated at high frequency. Zee TV's Zindagi channel - a big hit in the valley - is also used to ramp up Modi's message of good governance.

Sanjay Kak writing in the Caravan, however, comes closest to the truth behind this upsurge in voter turnout. His essay Ballot Bullet Stone is a compelling read. He tells us vividly how the mood during the parliamentary polls held in April 2014 was vastly different and the numbers were nowhere close to what is being seen now. Second, he makes a clear distinction on what is at stake for the voters then and now. The contrast is sharp and stark. He says "Kashmiris know that the members of parliament they are asked to vote for have no bearing on the masia-e-Kashinir or the Kashin issue', whose central question of political self-determination has vexed the region for more than 65 years. Nor can their members of parliament significantly affect citizens' access to roads, schools, hospitals or even the all-important neighbourhood electricity transformer. Those are the domain of the state

This should be a reality check for all those who call these elections a landmark in the state's history. Yet, who can deny that the absence of violence and the innumerable accounts of one-time stone-throwers being lured by the ballot is a pivot of far reaching significance? Undoubtedly there is ambivalence on the larger issues, accompanied by a sense of fatigue and hopelessness. Why chase a chimera like 'azadi' (independence) when pressing matters like getting a paved road through your village is the more immediate concern?

There are others who say that the separatists have sent word to go soft on the boycott to ensure the BJP is shut out of local politics; 'Mission 44' is BJP's slogan to get a majority in the 87-member state legislature for the very first time. If so, it will be the ultimate irony that in wanting to thwart the BJP, one of the unintended consequences is to restore faith in the ballot. And with the voter having tasted the power of the ballot, the lure of the bullet and the stone will have

Will Sanjay Kak then write Stone Bullet Ballot?

- The Gulf News Ravi Menon is a Dubai-based writer, working on a series of essays on India and on a public service initiative called India

Pardon Bush and Those Who Tortured

ANTHONY D. ROMERO

BEFORE President George W. Bush left office, a group of conservatives lobbied the White House to grant pardons to the officials who had planned and authorized the United States torture program. My organization, the American Civil Liberties Union, found the proposal repugnant. Along with eight other human rights groups, we sent a letter to Mr. Bush arguing that granting pardons would undermine the rule of law and prevent Americans from learning what had been done in their names.

But with the impending release of the report from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I have come to think that President Obama should issue pardons, after all - because it may be the only way to establish, once and for all, that torture is illegal.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of the Senate Intelligence Committee.Editorial: The Senate Report on the C.I.A.'s Torture and LiesDEC. 9, 2014

Here Come the Torture ApologistsDEC. 9, 2014
On-Ed Contributor: The Torture Report

Op-Ed Contributor: The Torture Report Reminds Us of What America WasDEC. 9, 2014

Torture and ResponsibilityDEC. 9, 2014
That officials at the highest levels of
government authorized and ordered
torture is not in dispute. Mr. Bush issued
a secret order authorizing the C.I.A. to
build secret prisons overseas. The C.I.A.
requested authority to torture prisoners
in those "black sites." The National
Security Council approved the request.
And the Justice Department drafted
memos providing the brutal program
with a veneer of legality.

My organization and others have spent 13 years arguing for accountability for these

crimes. We have called for the appointment of a special prosecutor or the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, or both. But those calls have gone unheeded. And now, many of those responsible for torture can't be prosecuted because the statute of limitations has run out.

Senator Dianne Feinstein speaking to reporters Tuesday after her remarks on the Senate floor about the Intelligence Committee's report.Reaction to C.I.A. Torture ReportDEC. 9, 2014

George J. Tenet, left, was director of the Central Intelligence Agency when the brutal tactics began. The report said he misled President George W. Bush.Panel Faults C.I.A. Over Brutality and Deceit in Terrorism InterrogationsDEC. 9, 2014 Former Vice President Dick Cheney defended the C.I.A. on Monday, saying

defended the C.I.A. on Monday, saying that its harsh interrogations a decade ago were "absolutely, totally justified."White House and Republicans Clash Over C.I.A. Torture ReportDEC. 8, 2014

Dismissing Senate Report, Cheney Defends C.I.A. InterrogationsDEC. 8, 2014

To his credit, Mr. Obama disavowed torture immediately after he took office, and his Justice Department withdrew the memorandums that had provided the foundation for the torture program. In a speech last year at the National Defense University, Mr. Obama said that "we compromised our basic values - by using torture to interrogate our enemies, and detaining individuals in a way that ran counter to the rule of law."

But neither he nor the Justice Department has shown any appetite for holding anyone accountable. When the department did conduct an investigation, it appeared not to have interviewed any of the prisoners who were tortured. And it repeatedly abused the "state secrets" privilege to derail cases brought by prisoners - including Americans who were tortured as "enemy combatants."

What is the difference between this essentially granting tacit pardons for torture - and formally pardoning those who authorized torture? In both cases, those who tortured avoid accountability. But with the tacit pardons, the president leaves open the very real possibility that officials will resurrect the torture policies in the future. Indeed, many former C.I.A. and other government officials continue to insist that waterboarding and other forms of torture were lawful. Were our military to capture a senior leader of the Islamic State who was believed to have valuable information, some members of Congress would no doubt demand that our interrogators use precisely the barbaric and illegal methods that the Obama administration has disavowed.

The Obama administration has disavowed. The Obama administration could still take measures to hold accountable the officials who authorized torture. Some of the statutes of limitations have run out, but not all of them have. And the release of the Senate's report provides a blueprint for criminal investigations, even if that's not what the intelligence committee set out to do.

But let's face it: Mr. Obama is not inclined to pursue prosecutions - no matter how great the outrage, at home or abroad, over the disclosures - because of the political fallout. He should therefore take ownership of this decision. He should acknowledge that the country's most senior officials authorized conduct that

violated fundamental laws, and compromised our standing in the world as well as our security. If the choice is between a tacit pardon and a formal one, a formal one is better. An explicit pardon would lay down a marker, signaling to those considering torture in the future that they could be prosecuted.

Mr. Obama could pardon George J. Tenet for authorizing torture at the C.I.A.'s black sites overseas, Donald H. Rumsfeld for authorizing the use of torture at the Guantánamo Bay prison, David S. Addington, John C. Yoo and Jay S. Bybee for crafting the legal cover for torture, and George W. Bush and Dick Cheney for overseeing it all.

While the idea of a pre-emptive pardon may seem novel, there is precedent. Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson pardoned Confederate soldiers as a step toward unity and reconstruction after the Civil War. Gerald R. Ford pardoned Richard M. Nixon for the crimes of Watergate. Jimmy Carter pardoned Vietnam War draft resisters.

The spectacle of the president's granting pardons to torturers still makes my stomach turn. But doing so may be the only way to ensure that the American government never tortures again. Pardons would make clear that crimes were committed; that the individuals who authorized and committed torture were indeed criminals; and that future architects and perpetrators of torture should beware. Prosecutions would be preferable, but pardons may be the only viable and lasting way to close the Pandora's box of torture once and for all.

The New York Times



Princeton University researchers have uncovered a previously unknown, and possibly substantial, source of the greenhouse gas methane to the Earth's atmosphere.

After testing a sample of abandoned oil and natural gas wells in northwestern Pennsylvania, the researchers found that many of the old wells leaked substantial quantities of methane. Because there are so many abandoned wells nationwide (a recent study from Stanford University concluded there were roughly 3 million abandoned wells in the United States) the researchers believe the overall contribution of leaking wells could be significant.

The researchers said their findings identify a need to make measurements across a wide variety of regions in Pennsylvania but also in other states with a long history of oil and gas development such as California and Texas.

"The research indicates that this is a source of methane that should not be ignored," said Michael Celia, the Theodore Shelton Pitney Professor of Environmental Studies and professor of civil and environmental engineering at Princeton. "We need to determine how significant it is on a wider basis.

Methane is the unprocessed form of natural gas. Scientists say that after carbon dioxide, methane is the most important contributor to the greenhouse effect, in which gases in the atmosphere trap heat that would otherwise radiate from the Earth. Pound for pound, methane has about 20 times the heattrapping effect as carbon dioxide. Methane is produced naturally, by including

decomposition, and by human activity such as landfills and oil and



Abandoned wWells identified as greenhouse gas 'super-emitters'

While oil and gas companies work to minimize the amount of methane emitted by their operations, almost no attention has been paid to wells that were drilled decades ago. These wells, some of which date back to the

abandoned and not recorded on official records.

Mary Kang, then a doctoral candidate in civil and environmental engineering at Princeton, originally began looking into methane emissions from old

19th century, are typically wells after researching techniques to store carbon dioxide by injecting it deep underground. While examining ways that carbon dioxide could escape underground storage, Kang wondered about the effect of old wells on methane

Warming climate puts wetlands more at risk to invasive species



In the battle between native and invasive wetland plants, a new Duke University study finds climate change may tip the scales in favor of the invaders -- but it's going to be more a war of attrition than a frontal assault.

surface-water temperatures, rainfall patterns and river flows will likely give Japanese knotweed, hydrilla, honeysuckle, privet and other noxious invasive species an edge over less adaptable native species," said Neal E.

visiting Flanagan, professor at the Duke Wetland Center, who led the research.

Increased human disturbances to watersheds and nutrient and sediment runoff into riparian wetlands over the coming century

will further boost the invasive species' advantage, the study found.

"It's death by a thousand small cuts. Each change, on its own, may yield only a slight advantage for invasive species, but cumulatively they add up," said co-author Curtis J. Richardson, director of the Duke Wetland Center and professor of resource ecology at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment.

If left unchecked, over time these nange will reduce the diversity of plants found in many wetlands and could affect the wetlands' ability to mitigate flooding, store carbon, filter out water pollution and provide habitat for native wildlife, the authors said.

The scientists published their peer-reviewed findings this week in the journal Ecological Applications.

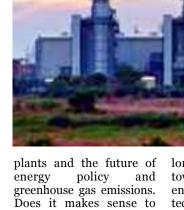
The study, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is the first large-scale field experiment to simulate how future environmental changes linked to global warming and land-use change will affect plant communities in major river systems in the U.S. Southeast.

Will more use of natural gas minimize or exacerbate climate change?

Natural gas power plants produce substantial amounts of gases that lead global Replacing old coal-fired power plants with new natural gas plants could cause climate damage to increase over the next decades, unless their methane leakage rates are very low and the new power plants are very efficient.

These are the principal findings of new research from Carnegie's Ken Caldeira and Xiaochun Zhang, and Nathan Myhrvold of Intellectual Ventures that compares the temperature caused by different kinds of coal and natural gas power plants. Their work is published in Environmental Research

There is an ongoing debate among people



replace old coal-fired

longer-term transition toward near zero-emission generation energy technologies such as solar, wind, or nuclear power? A power plants with new key issue in considering the natural gas power plants decision has been the concerned with power today, as a bridge to a potential climate effects of

natural gas versus coal. Studies have yielded different results by focusing on power plants different characteristics and using different definitions of what it means to be

"better" for climate. Carnegie's Caldeira and

along Myhrvold, aimed to identify the key factors that are responsible for most of the difference in greenhouse gas emissions between individual gas and coal plants. The key factors, they found, are power plant efficiency and, in the case of natural gas plants, methane leakage during the supply process. They used these factors to derive a simple model for resulting temperature change caused by the carbon dioxide and methane released by a particular plant.

The team chose a simple and understandable way to compare climate effects of different types of power plants. They predicted how much global warming would be produced by different kinds of power plants during and after their period of operation.

EPA Releases New Energy Star Tool for Homeowners

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching its Energy Star Home Advisor, an online tool designed to help Americans save money and energy by improving the energy efficiency of their homes through recommended, customized and prioritized home-improvement projects.

"As we enter the winter months, homeowners can use our new Energy Star Home Advisor to increase energy efficiency and save money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "When homeowners take advantage of this important tool and increase the energy efficiency of their homes, many families will notice savings on energy bills and improvements in the comfort of their homes.'

The updated Energy Star Home Advisor guides the homeowner through a "do-it-yourself" energy assessment to create an Energy Star home profile.

Based on the newly created profile, the Home Advisor provides customized, prioritized recommendations improvements. From recommendations, users can create their own to-do lists of projects such as adding insulation to the attic or replacing an HVAC air filter.

Over time, users can update their home profiles as they make improvements, see the positive environmental impacts of the changes they've made, get additional recommendations, and update their "todo" lists for future projects. The home profiles can also be printed and used at the time of sale.

The announcement is part of EPA's Energy Efficiency Action Week, during which EPA regional offices across the country will hold events to increase awareness about the energy and cost savings associated with energy efficiency upgrades, especially in the winter



Bishops call for end to fossil fuels

Catholic bishops from around the world are calling for an end to fossil fuel use and increased efforts to secure a global climate

Catholics, they say, should engage with the process leading to a proposed new deal to be signed in Paris next year.

The statement is the first time that senior church figures from every continent have issued such a call.

Negotiators in Lima are currently trying to advance the outline text of an agreement at UN-led talks.

With 1.2bn people worldwide calling themselves Catholic, the church has considerable potential to influence public debate on any issue.

On climate change, some bishops have previously called for rapid decarbonisation and argued for moves to protect the most

But this is first time that such a global collection of senior priests have made such a

In their statement, the bishops say they want a "deepening of the discourse at the COP20 in Lima, to ensure concrete decisions are taken at COP21 to overcome the climate challenge and to set us on new sustainable pathways".

Monsignor Salvador Piñeiro García-Calderón, Archbishop of Ayacucho, and president of the Peruvian Bishops' Conference, said: "We bishops from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe have engaged in intense dialogue on the issue of climate change, because we can see it's the poorest people who are impacted the most, despite the fact they've contributed the least to causing it.

"They're the ones who respect the planet, the Earth, the soil, the water and the

"As the church, we see and feel an obligation for us to protect creation and to challenge the misuse of nature. We felt this joint statement had to come now because Lima is a milestone on the way to Paris, and Paris has to deliver a binding agreement."

The bishops argue that nations should aim to keep the rise in global temperatures below

This goes further than the current position of many negotiators who say that 2 degrees represents the threshold for dangerous climate change.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

CHINA: Premier Li Keqiang said China will learn from Ireland's investment in innovation and scientific technologies, after he met visiting Irish president Michael Higgins on Wednesday in Beijing, reports the times of India.

Li said China is trying to nurture new driving forces of the economy by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, and is willing to exchange experiences with Ireland transformed from an agro-pastoral economy to intellectual-driven economy in the 1980s.

"There is a long geographic distance between our two countries. However, there has been a long standing friendship between our two peoples," said Li. "This year marks the 35th anniversary of our diplomatic ties. I'm sure your visit to China will add a new boost to our China-Ireland relations."

Higgins said Ireland values its relationship with China "very much", and that the country has added a new focus to the relationship, focusing on science and technology.

There are already 2,400 Irish students in China and 2,700 Chinese students in the colleges and institutions in Ireland, Higgins said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Higgins witnessed the signing of a cooperation agreement between the leading universities of China and Ireland on Tuesday after in Beijing.

China has been Ireland's largest trading partner in Asia for seven years. In the first 10 months of this year, Irish investment in China reached more than \$400 million. Higgins arrived in Beijing on Sunday, kicking off the first visit by an Irish president to China in 11 years. The trip, scheduled to end on Dec 15, is Higgins' first to Asia since he became president in

Higgins will visit Shanghai on Thursday, where he will promote Irish food and tourism, and visit the former residence of Sun Yat-sen, The Irish



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang ® meets with Irish president Michael Higgins in Beijing, Dec 10, 2014. Xinhua

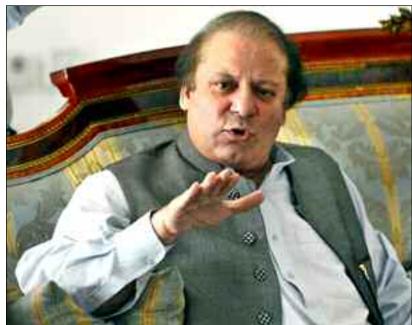
China and Ireland strengthen ties

Times reported. On Friday, Higgins is Dublin, before traveling to Zhejiang expected to deliver a speech at Shanghai's Fudan University and witness the signing of agreements between the university and Trinity College in

province to visit Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group in the province's capital, Hangzhou, the newspaper

Nawaz assigns Ishaq Dar to resume dialogue with PTI

Imran Khan booked under terrorism act



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif address at the press conference.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has assigned Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to resume dialogue with the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), DawnNews reported on Wednesday. Pakistan's Opposition leader Imran Khan has been booked under terrorism act for allegedly inciting violence against Punjab's former law minister RanaSanaullah during a rally in Faisalabad.

The decision was taken at a highlevel advisory meeting held at the PM House, which was attended by Information Minister Pervaiz Rashid, Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan,

Shahbaz Sharif among others. The case was registered yesterday after Sanaullah said that Imran and other people incited the attack at his place after a person was killed in

Safron Minister Abdul Qadir

Baloch, Governor KP Sardar

Mehtab and Chief Minister Punjab

clashes during the protest on Mon-

The case has also been registered against Pakistan Muslim League Awami chief Sheikh Rashid, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leaders Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Arif Alvi and Asad Umer as well as hundreds

Sanaullah in his complaint has accused the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf of calling a strike in Faisalabad to create anarchy and instability and halting the country's progress, Dawn reported.

He claimed that Imran and other leaders said they would attack and besiege "my house". They had also asked their supporters to attack the residence.

400 to 500 people had tried to attack his house but did not succeed because of the presence of his sup-

The former minister claimed that

He said police had made his statement part of the case and nominated the people he had mentioned in his application, the police said.

Violent clashes between workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf and ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in different areas of Faisalabad on Monday left activist Haq Nawaz dead and at least 17 people, including policemen, injured.

Imran and his party are protesting for alleged rigging in last year's

Historical Day

Khan Ataur Rahman's **Brith Day**

Khan Ataur Rahman, actor. singer, music composer and film director was born on this day in 1928 in Ramkantapur village of singair, Manikganj District. He got renowned for his role in the film Jibon Theke Neva (1970). In this film, his rendition of the song "E Khancha Bhangbo Ami Kemon Kore" echoed the national psyche on Bangladesh Liberation War. He was awarded of Pakistan Film Festival Award, Nigar Award, International film festival awards at Moscow and Tashkent, National Film Award of Bangladesh.

Iranian human rights lawyer arrested

TEHRAN: Award-winning Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh was arrested on Wednesday on unknown charges, her husband said, weeks after she was barred from practising for three years, reports UNB.

The couple's car was surrounded by intelligence agents on a highway in Tehran, Reza Khandan wrote on his Facebook page.

'Nasrin and I were arrested. I was freed but Nasrin is still in detention," he said, describing it as "their gift for World Human Rights Day" which was being marked on Wednesday.

Sotoudeh, who won the European parliament's prestigious Sakharov rights prize in 2012, was released from jail last year halfway through a six-year sentence for "actions against national security" and spreading "propaganda against the

In September a Tehran court barred her from practising for three years.

Khandan gave no indication of why Sotoudeh was posted on her husband's Facebook account over the weekend was critical of restrictions on education in Iran, as well as a lack of employment opportunities for political opponents.

Hailing from a religious middle-class family, Sotoudeh was among the few Iranian lawyers to take high-profile rights and political cases, including juveniles facing the death penalty, before her arrest in 2010. She has defended journalists and activists including Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi. When in jail she staged two hunger strikes, in protest at the conditions at Evin Prison in Tehran and at a ban against seeing her son and daughter. Sotoudeh was released in September 2013 shortly before Iran's then newly elected President Hassan Rouhani.

who had campaigned on a pledge to improve civil rights, attended the UN General Assembly.

Indian PDP patron, Sayeed says Cong made Guru a scapegoat to stop BJP

SRINAGAR: PDP patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on Wednesday alleged that former Congress-led UPA government at the Centre used Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru as a scapegoat in its failed bid to stop the rise of BJP at the national level.

"Congress played a counter-communal card in its failed bid to stop the rise of BJP at the national level and they used Afzal Guru as a scapegoat," Sayeed said while addressing an election rally in Dooru assembly segment of south Kashmir.

The Peoples Democratic Party leader said chief minister Omar Abdullah, who owed his "survival" in 2010 and 2011 to Congress, readily agreed to hanging Guru out of turn in a manner that does not do any good to the image of the country as a secular democracy where rule of law is supreme.

"Congress and National Conference just for their partisan politics sacrificed the image of the country

and subverted its system by not allowing Guru's family to have at least last minute meeting with him," he said.

He said ideologically Congress never tried to rise up to the BJP but instead made compromise after compromise to seek survival in power which ultimately demolished it at the national level and in the state it was reduced to hand-maiden of Omar Abdullah.

The former chief minister said Congress and National Conference are to be equally blamed for landing Jammu and Kashmir in one of the worst "governance crisis" of its history.

"It was because of Congress abandoning its inclusive agenda at the national level and its ministers indulging in open loot and frauds in the state that space for emergence of BJP was created in J&K," Sayeed

Sayeed said Omar on the strength of his friendship with Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi had his way on all matters without being able to do anything constructive for the state.

During the past six years, he said the functionaries of NC-Congress coalition worked as a "mutual benefit society" which had no direction and no Common Minimum Programme (CMP) for the welfare of the people.

The PDP patron said it was the Congress high command and its ministers in the coalition government who bailed out Omar Abdullah in 2010 when hundreds of youth were killed and thousands framed in false charges by his government.

"Similarly in 2011 Haji Yousuf case it was a Congress minister who supported Omar Abdullah more than his NC colleagues," he

Sayeed said PDP would try to form a government that would be inclusive and would reflect the urges and aspirations of all sections of the society across all the regions of the state.



Patron of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed waves towards party supporters during an election rally in Anantnag on Wednesday.

Suspected bomb kills 10 on Philippine passenger bus

MANILA: The death toll from a overcrowded bus were suspected bomb explosion on a bus in the southern Philippines rose to at least 10 with another 34 people wounded, officials said Wednesday, reports AFP/BSS.

The Rural Transit bus had picked up passengers, mostly students, and was passing near the main gate of Central Mindanao University in Maramag town in Bukidnon province on Tuesday night when the powerful blast sent shrapnel and debris flying through the vehicle, town safety officer Alejandro Navarro said.

The blast killed 10 passengers and wounded 34 others, many of them seriously, police said. The suspected explosive, probably a mortar round concealed in a bag, went off in an overheard rack, and many passengers who were standing in the wounded in the head, Navarro said. Investigators were trying to determine the type of blast and were searching for other possible explosives at the site in Maramag, about 860 kilometers (535 miles) southeast of Manila, police officer Rufina Bayarcal said.

Ralph Quilla, a 17-year-old

student who was riding on the bus, said by cellphone that the explosion occurred at the back of the vehicle and wounded him in the arm.

"There was a loud explosion that filled the bus with smoke," Quilla said from a hospital where he and other victims were taken for treatment. "I saw bloodied people and jumped out of a window.



many of them seriously injured.

Spot Light News

Bhutan, not India, was first to recognize Bangladesh

DHAKA: Bhutan and not India was the first to to recognize Bangladesh as an independent nation, foreign office has said, putting an end to the decades-old speculation on the issue. "Bhutan was the first country, there is no controversy about that," foreign secretary M Shahidul Haque told reporters on Monday amid fresh speculation in media here over the first foreign country to recognize Bangladesh after the 1971 liberation war

die inhaling it **PTI restores mem-**

bership of four

Pindi leaders

300m smoke in



More than 300 million people smoke in China, while about 740 million are exposed to second-hand smoke, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC). China, the world's top producer and user of tobacco, is also one of the biggest victims of smoking, said Yao Hongwen, a senior official with the NHFPC, on Wednesday. Twenty-eight percent of citizens above the age of 15 are smokers and about 1.37 million people die of smoking-related diseases every year.

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday restored the

membership of four local leaders of the party, including MPAs Arif Abbasi

and Rashid Hafeez. The party's additional secretary general Saifullah Niazi

issued a notification allowing Arif Abbasi to resume his duties as the district

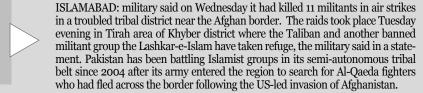
president. The PTI had suspended the membership of 10 offi cebearers fol-

lowing their fi ght with a cousin of Imran Khan at the venue of the sit-in in

Pakistan air strikes kill 11 militants

After jaunt to China

Putin's tiger back



HARBIN: A Siberian tiger released into the wild by Russian President Vladimir Putin was back on home soil after spending two months in China, experts said Wednesday. Heilongjiang Provincial Forestry Department received information from the Russian side on Tuesday that tracking devices showed that the tiger, Kuzya, was back in Russia, an employee from the

wildlife conservation department told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Indian, Chinese naval ships pumping potable water in Male



MALE: Restoring water supplies to the Maldivian capital could take 10 more days, an official warned on Monday, but tourists will not be affected by the crisis in the idyllic holiday destination. Indian and Chinese military ships are in the island capital, pumping potable water from onboard desalination plants. The two-square-kilometre island has been without water for four days following a fire at the plant that supplies 120,000 city-dwellers, including thousands of expatriate workers.

INTERNATIONAL

Nobel Peace winners stress education for all

OSLO: Nobel Peace Prize winners Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan and Kailash Satyarthi of India on Tuesday stressed the importance of uniting people across borders and religions by educating children and freeing them from

The Nobel laureates, who split the \$1.1 mony in Oslo on Wednesday, the million award, were cited for working to protect children from slavery, extremism and child labor at great risk to their own lives. They reiterated that

mean that you should hate each other,"

anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death in "Countries do have borders. It doesn't



Historical Day

Germany declares war on the United States On this day, Adolf Hitler

declares war on the United

States, bringing America,

which had been neutral, into

the European conflict.



Washington: President Barack Obama said Tuesday that the U.S. has offered to help Mexico figure out what happened to 43 college students who have been missing since September, but he stopped short of saying that aid to the U.S. ally and neighbor should be reconsidered on the basis of the country's human rights record, reports AP.

"We've offered assistance in tracking down exactly what happened, our forensic capabilities, our capacity to get to the bottom of exactly what happened," Obama told Telemundo, the Spanish-language television network, in an interview.

On the question of aid, which was posed by the interviewer, the president said what's more important is helping Mexico build on the progress it has made.

"We've got to make sure that we strengthen the criminal justice system, the investigative capacities," he said. "Mexico is our friend and our neighbor. We want them to thrive.'

Obama said the crime against the missing students has "no place in civilized society.'

The case has ignited indig-nation across Mexico and around the world over the fact that the students disappeared at the hands of a corrupt local government and that federal authorities took 10 days to intervene. Some have called for President Enrique Pena Nieto to

Obama said he spoke with Pena Nieto last month when both leaders attended an international economic summit in Australia and that the Mexican president "recognizes the outrageous

tragedy this represents.' Mexico's attorney general said 80 people have been arrested so far in the case, including 44 police officers from the cities of Iguala and Cocula and former Iguala Mayor Jose Luis Abarca, who is under investigation for ordering the Sept. 26 attacks.



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Aba-

Iraqi leader asks US for more air power, weaponry

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad. BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider almilitary hardware. The prime minister said the

on Tuesday that his army is taking the offensive against the Islamic State group but needs more air power and heavy weaponry to prevail, reports Reuters. Hagel, who flew to Baghdad to get a first-hand report on progress against the Islamic State militants, held a series of meetings with top Iraqi government officials and conferred with American military commanders. He met with al-Abadi at the prime minister's office after addressing a group of US and Australian sol-

Abadi told US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel

diers at Baghdad International Airport. Al-Abadi told Hagel as their meeting began that "Daesh (Islamic State) is on the descent at the moment." He said their capabilities had been reduced. "We are very thankful for the support that's been given to us," al-Abadi said. "Our forces are very much advancing on the ground. But they need more air power and more ... heavy weaponry. We need that". Asked later about al-Abadi's request, Hagel told reporters, "I appreciated his directness," but he was not more specific about how he responded. US

officials assert that the Iraqis' biggest need is

competent military leadership, not additional

Islamic State had acquired extensive weaponry and remained able to move back and forth between Iraq and Syria. That contrasts with statements by US commanders who say the militants' ability to resupply their fighters in Iraq has been severely constrained by airstrikes. In remarks to reporters later, Hagel said Iraqi forces are preparing for broader counteroffensives.

Hagel said he was leaving Iraq encouraged by progress on the battlefield against the militants and by the Iraqi government's renewed efforts to unify the country. "As Iraqi leaders and the people of Iraq know, only they can bring lasting peace to their country if they are resolved to do that," he said. He also said months of attacks on the Islamic State militants have been effective. "These efforts are thwarting ISIL's ability to manoeuvre, communicate, coordinate and control their forces, as well as their ability to sustain and resupply themselves," Hagel said, using an alternative acronym for the extremist group. "Iraqi forces will be able to intensify offensive operations as the coalition's training effort expands into northern, western and cen-

Climate march to set tone at Lima talks

LIMA: Green groups hoped for a big turnout at a protest in Lima Wednesday aimed at heaping pressure on ministers haggling over a post-2020 deal to curb car-

bon emissions. The "People's Climate March" in the Peruvian capital follows mobilisation on the eve of the September 23 revived climate change as a political priority.

Hundreds of thousands of people had turned out in dozens of cities to give the

summit a push, reports AP. "We're expecting between 15,000 and 20,000 people," Bert Wander of campaign group Avaaz said of

Wednesday's five-kilometre

(three-mile) march.

support from indigenous people, environmentalists and anti-poverty activists, said Wander. Environment ministers,

meanwhile, were to enter the second of a four-day meeting designed to apply political heft to the UN climate process.

1-12 Lima talks is to clear the way to a pact in Paris in December 2015 that will assemble a war machine to fight climate change.

Operational from 2020, it would help ensure that global warming does not breach two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial levels. This is a figure that scientists say is

The event would draw on far safer than predicted trends.

On current emission trajectories, Earth's surface will warm by some 4 C this century, a recipe for worse drought, floods, storms and rising seas. Wednesday's sessions were to focus on the thorniest issue: the format in which nations will set out

Transparency "is the keystone" of the deal, providing the key element of trust, a European negotiator said. Big emitters are under

greenhouse gas emissions.

pressure to put their pledges on the table by the end of the first quarter of 2015, hopefully providing enough time to finalise the historic pact in Paris next December.



All eyes are now looking toward Lima. Reuters

Nobel Peace Prize winners Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan, front, and Kailash Satyarthi of India are awarded their Nobel Peace Prize during the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo, Norway. -AP

poverty, reports AP.

The 17-year-old Malala, who was shot in the head two years ago in Pakistan for insisting that girls have as much right to education as boys, says it is "not only the right but the duty of children" to be educated.

Sitting alongside Malala, the youngest Nobel winner ever, the 60-year-old Satvarthi told their news conference that even if a single child is denied education "we cannot say we are enlight-

the prize was not only for them but for all the children of the world.

"It is very important for millions and millions of our children who are denied their childhood," Satyarthi said. "There are children who are bought and sold like animals, who are made hostages ... who are made child soldiers. This is an honor for them all."

Malala said she is disappointed that the prime ministers of their two rival nations have not accepted her recomshe said. "If they were here, I would have said to them to make education the priority together."

The visit by Malala and Satyarthi has drawn hundreds of people into the freezing streets of Oslo hoping to get a glimpse of the laureates.

Martin Slotnes, a Norwegian living in Australia who was visiting the city with his wife and children, said it was the first time he had taken an interest in the

Palestinian minister dies at West Bank protest



minister has died after a confrontation with Israeli troops at a protest in the West Bank, reports BBC.

Palestinian medics told the BBC Ziad Abu Ein died from complications related to exposure to tear gas during the incident near the village of Turmusaya.

But several witnesses said the minister had been hit and shoved by soldiers. One said he had been hit in the chest by a tear-gas canister fired by them. The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports.

In recent weeks, 10 Israelis and an Ecuadorean have been killed by Palestinians in a series of attacks. Thirteen Palestinians have also been killed, among them several of the assailants. Mr Abu Ein, a minister without portfolio, was among dozens of foreign and Palestinian activists who took part in a protest on Tuesday morning against land confiscations organised by a Palestinian government committee.

They had planned to plant olive tree saplings on a patch of land near the Jewish settlement of Shiloh, which

Palestinians believe has been earmarked for annexation by Israel.In the course of the protest, they came into confrontation with a group of about 15 Israeli soldiers. Leading Palestinian activist Mahmoud Aloul, who was also at the protest, told the Associated Press the soldiers had fired tear gas at the activists and had beaten some of them with rifle butts. The Reuters photographer said he had seen Mr Abu Ein being struck by a hand to the neck during an altercation with two of the

soldiers. An AFP news

US: Make sure Arab activist puts up own bond money

agency photographer said the minister had been hit in

the chest. Photos of the inci-

dent showed Mr Abu Ein

lying unconscious before he

was removed from the scene

in an ambulance. He died

before reaching hospital in

the nearby city of Ramallah.

Detroit: Prosecutors have asked a Detroit federal judge to check the source of any bond money before releasing an Arab activist while she awaits sentencing for hiding her role in a fatal bombing in Israel.

The judge reversed himself Monday and said that 67-year-old Rasmieh Odeh can go free if she posts a \$50,000 cash bond. She faces sentencing in March for immigration fraud for failing to disclose her conviction for a 1969 grocery store bombing in Jerusalem that killed two Hebrew Universitv students. On Tuesday, federal prosecutors said they fear Odeh might flee the country unless the bond is her own money.

Spot Light News

Dutch govt defends handling of Ukraine crash probe

Senate syas Harsh

tactics didn't net

bin Laden

Amsterdam: The Dutch government has rejected a call for it to hand the investigation of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 disaster over to the United Nations, saying it is doing the best it can under difficult circumstances. Flight 17 was shot down over territory held by pro-Russia rebels in eastern Ukraine on July 17, killing 298 people. Parts of the wreckage arrived in the Netherlands Tuesday by truck as part of the Dutch-led investigation into the cause.

Washington: After Navy SEALs killed Osama bin laden in Pakistan in May 2011, top CIA officials secretly told lawmakers that information gleaned from brutal interrogations played a key role in what was one of the spy agency's greatest suc-

Then-CIA Director Leon Panetta repeated that assertion in public, and it found its way into a critically acclaimed movie about the operation, "Zero Dark Thirty, which depicts a detainee offering up the identity of bin Laden's courier, Abu Ahmad al-Kuwaiti, after being tortured at a secret CIA interrogation site.

> **British royals crown New York visit with**

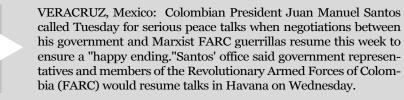
Colombian president

eyes 'happy ending'

Gulf Arab states to

create regional

police force



Doha: The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council says it will create a regional police force that will be based out of the United Arab Emirates'

capital of Abu Dhabi. The creation of the police force, known as GCC-

POL, was announced Tuesday at the conclusion of the Gulf bloc's annual

summit in Qatar. Local media have dubbed it the "Gulf Interpol" and say

its aim is to improve cooperation against drug trafficking, money launder-

Armenian soldier killed in Nagorno Yerevan: Nagorno-Karabakh says one of its soldiers has been killed in a

The separatist region's military said the soldier was shot and killed in fighting Monday. David Babaian, a spokesman for the Nagorno-Karabakh separatist government, said Tuesday that the clash occurred when Azerbaijani forces launched an attack on the Armenian positions.

gala dinner

in peace talks

NEW YORK: Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate on Tuesday crowned their whirlwind tour of New York with a glittering gala dinner to raise money for the university where they fell in love.

The Duchess of Cambridge, resplendent in a midnight blue evening gown by the British designer Jenny Packham, swept up the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with a huge smile on her face despite the nearfreezing weather.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014



Porshi in 'Ai khuku ai' remake

Entertainment Desk

There are a few people in our country who hasn't heard the facous song 'Ai Khuku Ai'. The song originally sung by Hemanta Mukhapahday and Srabonti Majumder has been remade in Bangladesh.

The remake has been made by Tapan Chowdhury and Porshi under the music direction of Rasel.

Tapan Chowdhury said, there is a challenge in remaking a legendary song. I hope everyone will be happy with our contribution.

On the other hand Porshi said. Tapan Chowdhury is one of my most favourite singer. I am glad to get the opportunity of working with him.'

The song is set to telecast on Maachranga Television on 19th December at 9pm in 'Meril Baby Adore Gora Bhobishot'.



JK Rowling won't release 12 'Harry Potter' short stories

Entertainment Desk

Author JK Rowling has denied reports that she is releasing 12 'Harry Potter' short stories for Christmas this month via her site Pottermore. Pottermore's Facebook account said that the media incorrectly

assumed their post, reported Ace Showbiz. "Just to put everyone straight on the misleading media

reports of 'Twelve New Stories for Christmas'. As true Potter fans worked out straight away, our 12 days of festive surprises and accompanying rhyming riddles refer to new potions and Moments in addition to several new entries by JK Rowling that will be posted on pottermore.com between 12th and 23rd December," the announcement

"Sorry to disappoint fans, but there will not be a set of 12 new short stories, one for each day of Christmas. Even Pottermore wouldn't be that generous." Previously, many fans were excited when reports suggest that the author would be releasing new materials. Pottermore had previously said that there would be "wonderful writing by JK Rowling in Moments from Half-Blood Prince, shiny gold Galleons and even a new potion or two" on Facebook.

Kalki Koechlin: No better teacher than experience

Entertainment Desk

Actress Kalki Koechlin says she is still learning and hopes to excel in acting when she turns 90.

"There is no better teacher than experience. After every film, we all learn something and take that with us. I hope when I am 90, I will be a great actress," the 30year-old told reporters in a group interview. "Yes, I have done films which were not a hit, but that's fine. I think it's not important all your films should be hits. Your should performance

appreciated. We all work and try to improve and better ourselves,"

The Dev.D star's releases like Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara and Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani were all commercial projects. But she says it was not a conscious decision to do them.

"I don't take any conscious decision to do commercial films. I do what I find interesting," she

Kalki was last seen in Happy Ending, which also featured Saif Ali Khan and Ileana D'Cruz.





Sujana to return soon

Entertainment Desk

Actress-model Sumaiya Jafar Sujana is set to return to the television through her upcoming telefilm 'Destinatioon'. The telefilm has been written and directed by Fardin Ehsan

The audiences can expect to see actor Omar Sunny in the role of Suajana's bodyguard. This is going to be the first project to cast Sunny and Sujana. The shooting of the telefilm began in Diabari situated in Uttara. Moreover actor Shahiduzzaman Selim will be seen in an important role.



SRK, Arjun Kapoor to play brothers in **Rohit Shetty's next?**

Entertainment Desk

We are all aware how Rohit Shetty loves repeating his cast. First he had his obsession with Ajay Devgn and now it's cearly SRK after Chennai Express. But the new entrant in Rohit's camp is SRK, Arjun Kapoor to play brothers in Rohit Shetty's next.

SRK and Arjun Kapoor are coming together to entertain the audience as brothers in Rohit Shetty's forthcoming project. The film is a remake of the cult classic Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi.

According to the reports, SRK will reprise the role of Ashok Kumar while Arjun Kapoor will essay the role of Kishore Kumar.

Speaking to a leading daily, a close source said, "The original script had three brothers and we are sticking to the concept. However, it is not finalised if Arjun will be playing Kishore or Anup Kumar's

Ed Sheeran tops iTunes end of year chart

Entertainment Desk

Singer Ed Sheeran has topped the iTunes end of year chart with his hit

The 'Don't' hitmaker has been placed at the top of the annual chart after it was announced that his second album x- which was released in June - had been the most downloaded record in the UK for 2014, reported Contactmusic.

Singer Ed Sheeran has topped the iTunes end of year chart with his hit including album x.

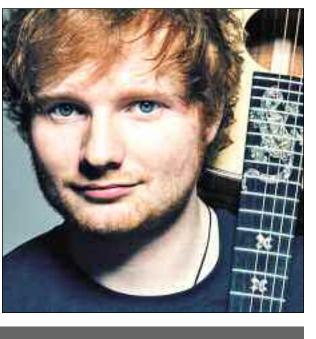
this year," he said.

revelation comes just days UK's pick for best song.

after his album was named as the most-streamed album in the world for 2014 on Spotify, with more than 430 million plays since it was released.

'Stay With Me' crooner Sam Smith placed second on the iTunes chart with his debut album In The Lonely Hour, while the soundtrack animated Disney 'Frozen' came third. The iTunes

revealed the best-selling singles from the past year, Pharrell Williams' catchy hit "Absolutely buzzing to hear I've got the best selling album on iTunes nominated track 'Rather Be' by Clean Bandit and It's been a good year for Jess Glynne, which was the singer, as this also labelled as iTunes



Horoscope

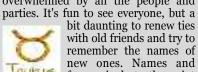
Aries (March 21 - April 19)



Don't be surprised to see your co-workers acting a bit silly today, Aries. There is no getting around the high spirits that permeate the office environment. It's

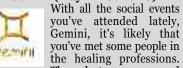
almost impossible to get any work done with today's planetary atmosphere. Rather than cracking the whip and trying to increase productivity, why not join in? Lighten up a little.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Life's been a real social whirl lately, Taurus. You may feel a bit overwhelmed by all the people and



faces mingle to the point where you aren't sure of your own name, much less anyone else's. Take a deep breath, Taurus, you're doing just fine.

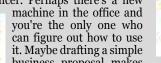
Gemini (May 21 - June 20) With all the social events



These doctors, nurses, and technicians could be useful to you later. Be sure to file their contact information away for future reference. On another front, expect to receive some good news concerning your finances.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) You may discover an untapped talent

today, Cancer. Perhaps there's a new



business proposal makes you realize how much you enjoy the writing process. This is a good day for any kind of creative endeavor, as well as for paperwork of all sorts. Get everything done so you can enjoy the evening

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Expect some positive developments today that impact the whole family, Leo. Perhaps you or your mate will receive word of a significant raise or great job

opportunity. Perhaps you meet the one who is right for you, and you know it the instant you shake hands. Whichever it is, don't let the opportunity pass. If you don't seize it, someone else surely will.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)
You should be feeling especially confident today, Virgo.

You've been working especially hard lately, and the recognition you've received goes a long way toward

long way toward reinforcing your feelings of selfworth. Your life goals suddenly seem more attainable and you'll pursue them with renewed vigor. Your confidence is grounded in reality. You will surely succeed.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)



This is a day made for fun and frivolity, Libra, not one in which you're likely to get many of your chores done. Try as you might to focus on the task at hand, there

are distractions everywhere you turn. Your email pals could be sending you jokes and notes, and your friends could be bugging you to join them for an outing of some sort. You may as well give in.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) You're a person of many talents, and



today you're likely to discover yet another one, Scorpio. The delivery of a new piece of equipment makes you feel like you've been given a toy for your

sole enjoyment. But once you get the computer or piece of machinery up and running, you need to share it with your co-workers! They will be very impressed with your technical

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)



You Don't be surprised if people surround you today, each one anxious to confer with you. It seems that you're

the authority on all topics, Sagittarius. All the attention is flattering, but it makes it difficult to get any work done. Do what you can to help your co-workers, and then tell them that the help desk is closed for the day. You want to leave work early so you can be with your loved ones

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) Don't let yourself be manipulated by needy friends, Capricorn. With today's

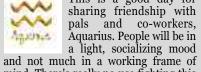


planetary energies, it's a good time to think about setting clear boundaries.

You know which friends are there for you and lift you up and which ones tend to drain all your time and energy with the constant need for your immediate attention. Try saying no. You can't fix other people's lives for them anyway. Think about it.

This is a good day for sharing friendship with

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)



mind. There's really no use fighting this energy. Enjoy yourself today and allow yourself to detach from work issues. You can all get back to the grindstone later. The work will still be there.

Pisces (February 19 -March 20) Your technical skills take a real leap



forward today, Pisces. It seems all that training you've done is finally paying off. Your new skills will greatly increase your efficiency and enhance your marketability. If you've hoon thisking about applying for a

been thinking about applying for a new position, get your resume ready to send out when you see an appealing ad. Any move you make will be for the

Clarke broken but not beaten

The last meaningful thing Michael Clarke did on day one was lay face down in the dirt and push at the ground.

in the morning. They hit would bat. He was at the ground. He was in the nets.

When he finally made the 100th run, he couldn't jump. He could barely raise his

bat. It wasn't a celebration. It wasn't a testimonial. It wasn't a relief. It was just

He was padded up. And

then, as Steven Smith

Either wearing a backbrace, or as one Cricket Twitter soon after. Clarke Australia official joked, perhaps he'd eaten too much

pasta the night before.

The shots were different as well. He had brought back his bad-back pull shot. Part international cricketer, part old man moving items on a clothing rack. Cuts were dispatched, often without any need, or ability, to move the feet. Clarke even used the guide over the slips. It was mullet batting. Business

on the pads, party outside

Clarke on his way out.

Clarke's leaves weren't authoritative or dismissive; they were jumpy and occasionally hysterical. The inside edge of the bat would have been shocked with how much work it had to do. Clarke also gave the early waft, that to be fair, he can perform whether injured or not. He never truly seemed to get out the way of short balls, some just missed him as he shrugged his shoulders, ducked his neck and waited for impact.

Crossing from end to end may result in what we call runs, but it's overstating what Clarke was doing. Singles looked painful and resulted in much effort and little pace. Clarke would often lean forward, hoping the momentum would get him home. India threw the ball at his end like he was Arjuna Rantunga. Clarke

complete four twos and one three. All of which looked like the end of marathons, not 44 or 66 yards. The bat seemed amazingly heavy in his hands, it always seemed clutched, not held. When running it seemed to be almost weighing him down.

When the rain first started, Clarke was the first man to start leaving the field. It was the only time he was the quickest to move. He looked dispirited when the umpires decided to play on. When they did leave the field later on, Smith ran off, Clarke

walked slowly.

The stump microphone was more brutal on Clarke than any short ball. Heavy breathing and groaning became the soundtrack for his innings. A cricket phone sexline. If it was turned up louder, you could probably hear his spine clicking in and out of place. Louder still and

out of place. Louder still and you'd have heard the internal monologue of pain. The crowd applauded everything, even mishits to the legside that almost got runs. Clarke slashed hard outside offstump, and picked up singles off his hip on the legside. His feet moved to the spinner but moved to the spinner, but not in any meaningful or attacking way. It was Clarke on lithium. The Clarke we know since his back was attacked by this invisible



With the successes of Fawad Alam and Sohaib Maqsood, it looked like Pakistan would finally have a modern batting order.

Pakistan's ODI batting a decade behind the rest

Sports Desk

The loss to Sri Lanka in the fourth ODI constituted England's 16th loss in 27 ODIs - almost a return to the '90s, reports Cricinfo.

England are quite possibly the worst batting team in the world right now. Since the last Champions Trophy none of the other top eight nations has a lower average than them, and the only ones with lower run rates are Pakistan and West Indies.

In fact, since the start of 2006, only Pakistan and West Indies have a lower run rate than England. Since the start of 2007 Pakistan, West Indies and New Zealand are the only teams worse than England in terms of average. Unsurprisingly these four are also the bottom four in terms of win-loss record over this period too.

The truth is that most ODIs nowadays are just runfests, and those who haven't adapted are being left behind.

Yet it's barely two years from when England stood atop the ODI rankings - a spot Pakistan have not been in sniffing distance of in the 21st century. For all the weeping and moaning and gnashing of teeth over the past few years England have a positive result record since the start of 2009. Pakistan are one of three major teams with a negative record, and the only one of those three with a run rate under five during this period.

It's one of the greatest flaws of the Misbah era, and sadly one that could end up defining his legacy among too many supporters. For all record-breaking, overachieving exploits of the Test team, the ODI side remains a pale shadow.

The agonising part for the Pakistani fan, of course, is that the team had seemed to two years of stagnation Pakistan seemed to have lucked out with a side that could dream bigger. In the aftermath of the last Champions Trophy the senior dead weights were dropped and Pakistan seemed to turn towards a semblance of meritocracy. The result was that they won four of their next five series, and reached the final of the Asia Cup after batting-led victories in the round robin stage. Even their lone series loss could have been avoided if they had had a lower order with brains. And in all these series one could point to at least one match where it was the batting that contributed more than the bowling - rare for Pakistan since the days of Inzamam and Woolmer.

In the ten months since the Champions Trophy, they had not only improved their standing but their approach to the game. The return of Umar Akmal, reintroduction of Fawad Alam and Ahmed Shehzad to go along with the rise of Sohaib Magsood meant that Pakistan could finally move away from their complete reliance on Misbah. Each of those four young 'uns averaged over 39 during this time and, Shehzad aside, each had a strike rate over 80. Finally Pakistan seemed to have found a "modern' ODI batting order.

But all it needed was one chink in the armour. All those series wins and whatever they entailed had been achieved in the knowledge that batting was still Pakistan's secondary suit. But the banning of Saeed Ajmal, together with the injuries to most of the front-line pacers meant that now suddenly Pakistan's batting needed to step up. The result has been that

row for the first time since 2009-10, when they lost nine in a row under the three different captains (Younis, Yousuf and Afridi).

Razzak reiterates challenge anticipating hopes Ad Deen Sojeeb

The veteran talent cricketer of the nation, Abdur Razzak has been in complications for a long time as the best Bangladeshi ODI spinner was out of squad against Zimbabwe by set by Bangladesh Cricket Board.

In ODI international, the 31 years old left-arm offspinner just took 8 wickets from 12matches this year. Unfortunately the spinner of Bangladesh team couldn't get more wickets what he wanted actually. That's why the selection panel had thought about replacing another spanner without

Though he couldn't get the chance against Zimbabwe, he has been playing an important role on behalf of Kalabagan Kria Chakra in Dhaka premier league this year. Besides, he has scored 12 wickets from just 6 matches.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh cricket board announced the initial squad for the biggest event ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 in Australia and in New Zealand where the selectors kept Razzak in their 30-man Squad as a most experience player of Bangladesh Cricket Team.

While talking to the TBT sports reporter Chairman of BCB National Selection Panel, Faruque Ahmed said, "Razzak has been fueling the national cricket team for a long moment, but it will be a great pain for his fans that he won't be able to perform this

nothing. Clarke had to bounced onto the ground former athlete, than current. Perhaps because of this, or excitedly, next to him wasn't hobble off the field. Mitchell Johnson, but a the sparse damp crowd, it Physically limited, slightly rotund looking took just a little longer for emotionally drained, reports people to notice it was

Clarke was

Unlithe. Looking more

Madrid beats Ludogorets 4-0 in Champions League

chunkier.

Sports Desk

Goals by Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale helped Real Madrid to a 4-0 victory over 10-man Ludogorets Razgrad on Tuesday and a clean sweep of six wins in Group C of the Champions League, reports AP.

another struggle to overcome.

It is a pointless stretch when

your back is that bad. It did

The defending champion, which had already won the group, stretched its winning streak to 19 matches - a Spanish record - scoring 71 goals in the process. The previous record of 18 consecutive wins was set by Barcelona between Oct. 2005 and Jan. 2006.

Madrid also matched its own 100 percent European group-stage record achieved under Jose Mourinho in 2012, only the sixth team ever to win all six Champions League group stage matches.

"It was a result that this squad has attained with an incredible seriousness and motivation," coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

Ludogorets forward Marcelinho was sent off for stopping Raphael Varane's goal-ward shot with an arm and Ronaldo converted the penalty in the 20th minute.

Bale headed in off the crossbar from Toni Kroos' corner in the 38th for his fifth goal in five matches. Alvaro Arbeloa added Madrid's third in the 80th, and Alvaro Medran scored in the 88th to complete the

Madrid started with Francisco "Isco" Alarcon along the left wing usually patrolled by Ronaldo and Bale on the right, while reserve goalkeeper Keylor Navas replaced Iker Casillas, who was on the bench. Ludogorets goalkeeper Vladislav

Stoyanov had to make a save within match, with Kroos hitting the the first two minutes to stop a shot from Ronaldo, with Navas doing the same to deny Marcelinho a minute

Navas punched away Virgil Misidjan's on-target effort in the 17th but Marcelinho's dismissal suddenly changed the balance of the woodwork three minutes later.

"The red card was a blow but we played a good match, we could have scored but luck is like that," said Ludogorets coach Georgi Dermendjiev.

Ludogorets tried to use its pace to get past Madrid's midfield but found

it hard to go beyond Varane and Jose "Nacho" Fernandez in central

Navas made a good save from Sveloslav Dyakov's powerful shot in the 58th, but Arbeloa hit the crossbar with a powerful header in the 73rd, shortly before scoring.

"I know I've got an extraordinary



Real Madrid's Alvaro Arbeloa celebrates scoring his side's 3rd goal with Cristiano Ronaldo during a Group B Champions League soccer match between Real Madrid and Ludogorets at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday Dec. 9, 2014.

News in <u>Brief</u>



All-round Shakib stars in Rupganj win

Sports Desk

Dense fog curtailed the Legends of Rupganj-Prime Doleshwar Sporting Club match to 31 overs a side, and the shortened game was to prove full of drama. Rupganj ultimately won by 28 runs, which not only ended their four-match losing streak but would have also come as a pleasant distraction after the turmoil their club faced the night before, when their owner was banned from entering cricket stadiums for life, and their joint secretary and team manager banned for five and three years respectively. Batting first after a 150-minute delay, Rupganj made 211 in 30.1 overs. In his first appearance in domestic cricket this season, Tamim Iqbal made 45 off 48 balls.



Radwanska dreams of grand slam glory with Navratilova

Sports Desk

Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska hopes to win the first grand slam title of her career after appointing 18-times grand slam champion Martina Navratilova as her new "supercoach": The 58-year-old Navratilova, one of the game's all-time greats with 59 grand slam singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles to her name, will work alongside Radwanska's full-time coach Tomasz Wiktorowski. The 25-year-old Radwanska, who lost to Serena Williams in the 2012 Wimbledon solution to the WTA Tour finals in Singapore, where she lost 6-2 6-2 to Simona Halep. By following the trend set by players such as Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, who work with former greats Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg respectively, world number six Radwanska hopes the appointment of Navratilova will have a positive impact.



Rupganj chairman handed life ban

Sports Desk

Lutfar Rahman Badal, the Legends of Rupganj chairman, has been handed a life ban from all cricket activities by the BCB's disciplinary committee for his outburst against the BCB president Nazmul Hassan and two other directors. In addition, Rupganj joint secretary Tarikul Islam and team manager Sabbir Ahmed received five and three-year bans for allegedly intimidating and abusing match officials. The committee took the decision on Tuesday night after the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) had put a temporary ban on Lutfar and Tarikul earlier in the evening.

Crosswords

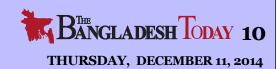


DOWN

. Sword 2. Mature 3. Declares 4. Snake-like fish 5. Digit 6. Anoint (archaic) 7. Tardy 8. A spiders trap 9. And so forth 10. Unfortunate 11. A woman's undergarment 12. Past tense of Leap 13. Female sheep (plural) 18. Give a speech 22. Ampule 24. Found on a finger 26. P P P P 28. Lone-Star State 29. Stair 30. Where the sun rises 31. Feathery scarves 32. At one time (archaic) 33. Land bordering a lake 34. Anarchists 37. Plateau 38. Bucolic 40. Learning method 41. Betel palm 43. Cancel 44. Craving 46. Malicious 47. Blood vessels 48. Overact 49. Ridges of sand 50. Treaty on tariffs 51. Pearly-shelled mussel 53. Creative work 56. An Old Testament king 57. Letter after

1. Scottish hillside 5. Not true 10. Competent 14. Not pre-recorded 15. Awkward 16. Beer 17. Sorry 19. Jest 20. Morning moisture 21. Governed 22. Sleeveless garments 23. Capture 25. Long stories 27. Consumed food 28. Dissertation 31. Negate 34. Handrail post 35. Estimated time of arrival 36. By mouth 37. Blends 38. Angers 39. Request 40. Rehabilitation 41. Highly skilled 42. Abnormal narrowing 44. Attempt 45. Relating to a fetus 46. Postponed 50. To swallow up (archaic) 52. Classical Greek 54. Large flightless bird 55. Dwarf buffalo 56. A cherished desire 58. Hue 59. Wall uprights 60. Initial wager 61. Carry 62. Something of value 63. Applications

ECONOMY & BUSINESS





Quazi Osman Ali, Deputy Managing Director of FSILB inaugurates the branch among others.

Six years after property crash, Spain builds again

MADRID: When Spain's property bubble burst in 2008, the country was plunged into an economic crisis that threw millions of people out of work, reports AFP/BSS.

Now after six hard years, and even though hundreds of thousands of properties stand empty, building has restarted in the country.

The decade before the crash saw an all-out building frenzy in the eurozone's fourth-largest economy. Around 700,000 houses were built each year during the 2000s until the bubble burst, more than in Britain, France and Germany combined.

At the same time municipal and local governments, flush with cash in part from the sale of building licences, undertook massive infrastructure projects, such as Huesca airport in the foothills of the Pyrenees in northeastern Spain, which opened in 2007 and is now mostly empty.

Nearly 1.9 million people worked in the building sector before the economic

crisis. Now the sector employs fewer than 700,000. But in recent months building firms have started hiring again. The sector created nearly 10,000 jobs in November, according to employment ministry figures published last week. "It is mostly linked to a rise in public works," said a spokesman for the National Confederation Construction, which groups together the majority of Spain's builders. The tendency should continue next vear since Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's budget for 2015 -- when he faces local and legislative elections-calls for spending on infrastructure projects to increase by around six percent.

"There is a lot of optimism in the construction sector, in part because of the announcements that have already been made by the public works minister," said Javier Vaca, director of business development at Spanish builder FCC. The slight uptick in the sector is not limited to public works, with the building of private homes up

slightly as well. "The improvement in investment in the construction sector that has been noticed since the start of the year seems to have continued during recent months," the Bank of Spain wrote in its latest bulletin at the end of November. Among the factors giving the sector a boost are low interest rates, easier household credit, a rise in the number of building permits issued and a return to modest economic growth, said Miguel Cardoso, chief economist at Spain's second-largest bank BBVA. "There are a series of factors that make us think that we have reached an inflection point," he said. The number of building permits issued in Spain during the first nine months of 2014 rose by 5.7 percent over the same period last year, according to BBVA. Home building is up despite a huge stock of unsold homes because many of these empty dwellings are not in urban areas like Madrid and Barcelona where the economy is improving at a faster clip and demand is rising, Cardoso said.

Inauguration of Panchlaish branch of FSILB held

Business Desk

Panchlaish Panchlaish Branch of FSIBL started its operation on December 2014. Quazi Osman Ali, Deputy Managing Director of First Security Islami Bank Limited inaugurated the Branch. Among others Wahidur Rahman, Zonal Head, Chittagong, Azam Khan, Head of Marketing, Development & Public Relations Division, Sultana Naznin Chowdhury, Manager, Panchlaish Branch, Branch Managers of Chittagong Division and Local Elites were also present on the occasion. A Doa Mehfil was also organized on occasion. FSILB mission are to

economic development of the country, to attain the highest level of satisfaction through the extension of services by dedicated motivated professionals, to maintain continuous growth of market share by ensuring quality, to ensure ethics and transparency in all levels, to ensure sustainable growth and establish full value of the honorable shareholders and above contribute all. to

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Under pressure Swiss banks eye Chinese wealth

GENEVA: Switzerland's banking sector, facing the end of the secrecy that was once the bedrock of its business, is turning to China as it seeks new markets for the future, reports AFP/BSS.

"One of the first ports that the Swiss financial centre is steering for... is the port of China," Claude-Alain Margelisch, chief executive of the Swiss Bankers Association, told reporters in Geneva this week.

"Together with our member banks, we want to make Switzerland an international hub for the renminbi," also known as the yuan. Switzerland will abandon its long-prized banking secrecy in 2017 when it starts automatically exchanging account details with other countries, and with it goes one of the main attractions of placing money in its banks. For generations, investors have paid Swiss banks high fees to hide their money from tax authorities around the world, providing a lucrative stream of revenue for them.

But the global financial crisis prompted demands for a tougher regulatory environment. Switzerland was reluctantly forced to accept the new rules, leaving the banks facing an uncertain future.

Not only are private Swiss banks looking for new sources of revenue, but they have

also faced probes and massive fines from countries accusing them of abetting tax dodging.

"The Swiss financial centre and the Swiss banks have recognised the need for action," said Margelisch.

"We have drawn the necessary conclusions from previous mistakes and introduced counter-measures."

In 2013, Switzerland still held 26 percent of global offshore assets, or \$2.3 trillion, according to an analysis by Boston Consulting.

But Nicolas Pictet, president of the Geneva Financial Center, which represents hundreds of banks and financial companies, warned in October that the sector must wake up. Pictet, a managing partner in his family's eponymous bank, said Geneva must stop "behaving like hedgehogs on a freeway" as they risked losing out to other financial centres.

Margelisch said relations between China and Switzerland were stronger than ever, noting a free-trade agreement signed in 2013 and which came into force this year.

Officials from both sides have met twice in the past year to discuss finance, while national banking associations held their first "financial round table" in June.



In 2013, Switzerland still held 26 percent of global offshore assets, or \$2.3 trillion, according to an analysis by Boston Consulting. Reuters

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges Bridges Division

Bangladesh Bridge Authority Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212. www.bba.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Bridges Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges				
2	Agency	Banybidesh Bridge Authority (BBA)				
3	Procuring Entity Name	Chief Engineer, BBA, Dhaku				
4	Procuring Entity Code	Nos Avallable				
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka				
6	Invitation for	Repair of crocks inside the hox girder and strengthening of the superstructu of the Bangabandhu Bridge.				
7	Invitation Ref No	\$0.00.0000.146.00.001(V-2).12=540				
8	Date	December 09, 2014				
-	KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) Single Stage Two Envelope				
	FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB / BBA's Own Fund				
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not Applicable				
	PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	Not Applicable .				
13	Project/Program Name (if applicable)	Not Applicable				
14	Tender Package No.	1 (one)				
15	Tender Fackage Name	Repair of cracks Milds the ben girder and strengthening of the reperstructure of the Bangabandhu Bridge.				
16	Tender Publication Date	Date: December 15, 2014				
17	Tender Last Selling Date	Date: January 27, 2015 Time: During office hours				
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	Dale: January 28, 2015 - Tuos: 12.00 noon				
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: January 28, 2015 Time: 63:30 pm				
20	Name & Address of the office(s)					
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Accounts Section, Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Sciu Bhaban, New Road, Banani, Dhaka.				
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Not Applicable.				
	Receiving Tender Document	O Conference Room (2 nd floor), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaha. II) BBA Site Office, Bangobandhu Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tanguil. III) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaha Division, Segunhagicha Dhaha.				
	Opening Tender Document	Conference Room (2 ⁸⁶ floor), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhahan, Naw Astroni Road, Banani, Dhaka.				

21	Pro-Tender Meeting	e-Tender Meeting A Pro-Tender meeting shall be held on January U., 2				
	Place of Pre-Tender Meeting	Office of the	Chief Engineer, 1		Conferencei Room BBA, Seise	
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23	Brief Description of Works	of the Bung	<u>авака</u> йы Вені <u>уе.</u>	n girder and stren	gthering of the superstructure	
24	Ilrief Description of Related Services	·		= //		
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25	1 Repair of cracks inside the box girder and strengthening of the superstructure of the Rangabandha Bridge	≀ &i	4,609.00 (Four Thrusand Only)	3.00 crore (Taka Tieres crore anily)	12 (twelve) months	
26	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS Name of Official Inviting Tender	. Kabu	.fhm _e vi			
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29 30	Contact details of Official Inviting T The procuring onliny reserves the righ	coder Tel. N	o:9888969	Far No.: 98	88969/9888414	

Chief Engineer
Ph: 9888969
E-mail, dir tech(@hba.gov.bd

GD-1763/14 (20x4)

MISCELLANEOUS



Vested quarter carried out killings to create vacuum in merit, leadership: Maya

DHAKA: Dhaka City Awami League general secretary and Relief and Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya (Bir Bikram) yesterday said that a vested quarter had carried out killings in various names at different times to create a vacuum in the merit and leadership, reports BSS.

"All these killings were interlinked and those involved in the killings were of identical ideologies," he said. The Awami League leader said this while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion in the city.

Dhaka City South unit Mahila Awami League organised the discussion at the party headquarters at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital marking the 'Day for Physically Challenged persons' with its president Shaheda Khanam Shaheen Laskar in the chair.

Mahila Awami League president Ashrafunnessa Mosharraf, organising secretary Mahmuda Khatun Krik, Dhaka

Manistry /Division

Producing Engry Name

Procuring Entity District

Agency

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Institution ref. No.

KEY INFORMATION

Procurement method

FUNDING INFORMATION

Budget & Source of Funds

PARTICUAR INFORMATIONS

Teeder Pablication date

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Tender Last Selling Date

13. Tender Closing Date and Time

Tender opening Date and Time

teader documents (Principal)

-Selling documents (Others)

-Receiving of lander documents.

Opening of tender documents.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER.

17. Eligibility of tender's.

18. Brief Description of works

Price of tender documents.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

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22. Name of official invidag teater

2). Designation of official leviting tender.

Contract details of official inviting tender.

Address of official vaviting tender.

Amount of tender security.

Time for completion of the works 60 (Sixty) days.

Name & address of the office(s) for selling

15. Tender Validity Period

City South unit Mahila Awami League general secretary Sabera Begum and organising secretary Shirin Poonam Nayeem, MP, were the discussants, among others.

Maya said, "The month of December is the month of joy as well as sorrow to the whole nation as we achieved freedom by defeating the Pakistani occupation forces on the 16th of this month while eminent intellectuals were killed by the retreating occupation forces and their local collaborators on the 14th at the penultimate period of independence."

He alleged that BNP founder Ziaur Rahman was involved in the killing conspiracy of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman and most of his family members in the August 15 carnage of 1975 and the four national leaders inside the Dhaka central jail to create a vacuum the national leadership.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Bridge Engineer/East.

Bangladesh Railway/CRB,

Invitation for Tender.

Ministry of Railways.

Bunglader, Ruilway

BE/E/Rev-10/2014-15

Open Teadering Method (OTM)

120 (One hundred twenty) days.

09-12-2014

GOB (Revenue).

17-12-2014

05-01-2015

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06-01-2015

As stated in the Tender Document

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The produring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.

Tx 17,509/-

Bridge Engineer/Enst, Bungindesh Raclway, Chittagong.

(size 8'x8'x4' = 05 Nos.)

At CTG: Repairing and repainting of M.S. over head

water tank at Polo ground Railway Colony Building

No. 12/1 and 13 (size 6'x6'x4' = 2 Nos.), at Pahartali

Loco shed (size 8'x8'x4' = 01 No.), at CRB Building

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At Sylhat Railway station ares: Repairing and repaint-

ing of 12 Nos. M.S. Over head water tank (sizes

8'x8'x8'-0"=12 Nox) with staging (size 44'x30'x40'

height) and 2 Nos. M.S. Over head tank at Loop shed

area (size 12'x12'x4' and 16'x8'x 4'-0") with 02 Nos.

stagings (size 12'x [2'x 25'-0" and 16'x8' x 25'-0")

12.00 Hrs.

12.30 Hrs.

Chamber of Bridge Engineer East, Sangladesh Railway, Chittogong,

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Package At CFO: Repairing and repainting of M.S. over head water tank

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Bridge Engineer/East, Bonglodesh Railway, Chitiagong,

Divisional Engineer/2, Bengladech Railway, Dhaka.

Road (size 8'x8'x4' = 05 Nos.)

Tk. 500/- (Five hundred) only (Non-refundable) for each package.

Package No.48

Bridge Engineer/Euss, Bangladesh Railway, Chistogong

Central Railway Ball-ling(CRB), Chitagong.

Ph-031-2863201-10 Ext. 2520.

Tk. 11,000/- (1k. Thirteen | Package No.42 | In the form of Bank Druft / Pay order

In continuation of that conspiracy, the Awami League leader said BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and her eldest son Tarique Rahman in collusion with communal militant outfits tried to eliminate the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and party stalwarts by mounting the August 21 grenade attack of 2004 to empty the country of leadership.

Maya said that the killings of prominent intellectuals on December 14 in 1971, the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15 in 1975 and the August 21 grenade attack of 2004 were inter-oven.

The minister said, "The physically challenged children are our offspring. We have to be more careful and sympathetic towards them. They will be transformed into human resources instead of burden of the society if we can ensure their proper medical treatment and services."

Oil spillage extending (From Page-1)

that is as thick as diesel, at the top of the water, the dolphins will have real trouble breathing. This is a huge dis-

aster for the dolphins." Wildlife diversity specialist Pavel Partha fears a sharp drop of oxygen in the waters of Sundarbans due to the oil spill. "All aquatic animals, specially the dolphins, will face a huge crisis.

On the other hand Wildlife Trust Bangladesh's Chief Executive Anwarul Islam fears this oil spill could endanger the entire eco-system of Sundarbans.

It is feared it will not only threaten aquatic animals but others living on land who consumes water on the river banks. The spread will affect the fish, dear, monkey and aquatic plants. The migratory birds that flock to the Sundarbans in winter will miss out on food they fish out of water.

The two vessels are OT Southern Star 7' and 'Total Cargo. The OT Southern Star 7' carrying some 3.57 lakh litres of furnace oil sank in the river at Migmari East Zone of Sundarbans on Tuesday morning after being hit by a cargo vessel 'Total Cargo at 5am on Tuesday.

Abul Kalam Azad. Chandpai Eastern range forest official, lodged the compensation suit with Mongla Police Station here in the

The other two members of the inquiry committee are Chandpai Eastern range forest officials Abul Kalam Azad and Kalldad Chandra.

Road to Victory

(From Page-1)

The para-troopers immediately set up position and secured a bridge on the Bangshi River.

The troops were expected to clear the road to Dhaka and link up with Mitra Bahini forces approaching from the east and the west of the occupied city. Meanwhile from the besieged capital, a message was sent to the UN secretary general, U Thant, by Major General Rao Farman Ali, civil advisor to the chief of Pakistan's eastern command, General Niazi.

He, on behalf of the East Pakistan administration and military command, sought UN assistance to repatriate Pakistani army and civilians stranded in East Pakistan.

It was clear from his message that Pakistan's eastern command had given up all hopes of

After the UN Security Council discussed the issue, much to the chagrin of the UN, Pakistan's president, Yahya Khan, disowned the appeal saying that he wanted ceasefire but did not want a withdrawal of his troops from East Pakistan.

In Washington D C the US president's assistant for National Security Affairs' Henry Kissinger briefed the US president, Richard Nixon, on the latest developments in the sub-continent.



100

World Famous IT Giant Dr. Richard Matthew Stallman to conduct a seminar at DIU

World Famous IT Giant Dr. Richard Matthew Stallman, President of Free Software Foundation will conduct a seminar on as "A Free Digital Society" as keynote speaker on this December 12, 2014 at the Auditorium of Daffodil International University at the Sobhanbag Campus from 14:30 pm. Daffodil International University (DIU) and FOSS Bangladesh jointly organizing a seminar,

says Press Release. Now a day's the most popular server system and the whole Internet system are running on GNU/Linux distributions like Debian, Redhat, Ubuntu etc. In Desktop computing Ubuntu, Linux Mint and Fedora is becoming famous at present. Among the Free software, in web browser we know Firefox and Chromium very well. For Graphics design we can think of GIMP, Inkscape Blender professional and home use. There is Libre Office and Open Office as like any other Office document processing program. And each of these programs are built on using an open compiler program named GNU compiler and GNU Compiler Collection as GCC. And this is the main tools by using which a programmer can run his/her code to make it avaluable, effective software. The main streamline for this digital social movement is named as FREE Software-FREE Hardware-Digit Freedom movement and the Founder of this movement is Dr. Richard Matthew Stallman, President of Free Software

Foundation. He is coming

to Bangladesh for the first

time ever.

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यारणादमम विकार छेत्रधन दवार्ड

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Kishoreganj.

www.lged.gov.bd

Reference No. LGED/XEN/KISHORE/e-GP-01/14-15/2449

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৫৬৮ (২) ৯/১২/১৪

জিডি-১৭৬২/১৪ (১১x৩)

Date: 09.12.2014

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e-Tender Notice No. 56 & 57/2014-15

c-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of

Package No.	Tender Notice No	Name of Scheme	Tender ID
RNRP/W-12	T 58	Re-excavation of Norosunda River Branch Khal(Monipur Ghat to Medical college) from Ch. 900 to 3240m. Pagla mosque to Guradoval college(from ch. 18000-18792m) & Re-excavation of Guradoval College pond under Sadar apaziloa, Kishoreganj.	15948
KNRP/W-16	T 57	Construction of 99,00m Foot Bridge on Norosunda river the back of Kishopreganj Pourushava under Kishoreganj Sadar upazila, Dist. Kishoreganj	15929

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be secepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.ep(ocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-Off System Postal bave to be deposited on line through any registers Banks branches up to 17.00 on 30-Dec-2014 for T-56 and 17.00 on 96-Jan-2015 for T-57

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from a GP help desk (helpdeski@corocute.gov.lid).

e-mail: xen.kishoreganj@lgcd.gov.bd

GD-1761/14 (14x3)

Bangledesh Raffway, CRB, Chicagong,

GD-1759/14 (7x4)

THURSDAY, DHAKA, DECEMBER 11, 2014, AGRAHAYAN 27, 1421 BS, SAFAR 17, 1436 HIJRI



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina observing the Bangladesh Air Force's K-8W training aircraft on Monday.

BAF to get modern helicopters, planes: PM

DHAKA: Reaffirming her resolve to turn Bangladesh Air Force into a strategically and technically capable force, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said the force will get Mi- 171 and YAK -130 helicopters and PT-6 and LET-410 planes soon, reports UNB.

She said this while addressing the induction ceremony of the newly procured K-8W Trainer Aircraft to the fleet of Bangladesh Air Force at BAF Base Bangabandhu at city's Kurmitola.

Hasina said Bangladesh Air Force will be turned into a strategically and technically sound, strong, and capable force through its further modernisation by 2021, the Golden Jubilee of the country's independence.

K-8W is a Chinese-built jet trainer with

7 Hijbut Tahirirmen

The court of Metropolitan

Bhuiyan granted two-day

Tahirirmen after Chittagong

on 2-day remand

in Ctg

CHITTAGONG

state of art digital cockpit for basic and advanced jet training.

The aircraft has better ergonomics and improved capability compared to earlier versions of K-8W aircraft. It has modern avionics like Head Up Display (HUD), Multi-Function Display (MFD), customised GPS system with digital moving

Hasina said her government, despite financial constraint, wants to build the armed force as an efficient, well equipped and modern force and will do whatever necessary to this end.

Mentioning that the BAF members. working in the UN peacekeeping mission, earned pride and praise for the nation, and hoped that they will bring more achievements for the nation.

During its previous tenure bought, the PM said, her government Mig-29 Fighter Plane of the 4th Generation, C-130 Cargo Plane and added high-tech powerful and sophisticated Radar system in the Air Force to protect the country's airspace.

Mi- 171 helicopter, PT -6 and LET-410 planes and YAK -130 helicopter will be added to the fleet soon, she added.

The Prime Minister formally handed over Induction Order of K-8W to commander of the parade Wing Commander Sharif Mustafa. On the occasion, a smartly turned out parade was arranged. The Prime Minister reviewed the parade and took salute. After the parade, the Prime Minister witnessed a colourful flying display of the newly inducted K-8W

Human rights condition now alarming: BNP

DHAKA: BNP spokesman Mirza Fakhrul İslam On Chittagong court on Wednesday alleged that Wednesday granted two-day remand to seven Hijbut human rights in Bangladesh Tahirirmen who were arrestare not only at risk but also on procession in city's Andar state itself is snatching people' Killah area on December 6 s all the basic rights, reports last, reports BSS.

"When the whole world is Magistrate Nure Alam making all-out efforts to protect human rights, Bangladesh is an exception in it as people's basic remand to seven Hijbut rights are being snatched every day here by the state," he said.

Metropolitan Police (CMP) prayed for a 7-day remand. The BNP leader further said, CMP police detained 10 "The current regime is on the activists of the banned spree of killings, enforced disappearances and other extra-Islamist militant outfit Hizbut Tahrir with anti-government judicial killings using the law leaflets and banners from an enforcers. Human rights in Bangladesh are not only anti-government procession at the city's Andar Killah area endangered but also close to on December 6 last. elimination.



Mirza Fakhrul Islam

Fakhrul, the BNP acting secretary general, came up with the remarks while addressing a press conference at BNP's

Nayapaltan central office. He strongly protested the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of BNP senior vice chairman Tarique Rahman in a defamation case, saying the

against those who are opposing it and raising voice against it. "They also filed a defamation case against constitution

Fakhrul claimed that the government is trying to suppress the opposition's movement by resorting to false cases and harassment of opposition leaders and activists, including Tarique.

He warned the government that it will not be to cling to power for long by indulging in repressive acts. Earlier in the day, a Dhaka court issued warrant for the arrest of Tarique Rahman in a defamation case filed for his "disparaging remarks" against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Nat'l Electricity Week begins today President to inaugurate function at BICC

DHAKA: The 'National Electricity Week 2014' begins in the city on today, aiming to create mass awareness about electricity saving and motivate the organisations under the Power Division to improve consumer services, reports UNB.

gramme is 'Bangladesh Advances as Nation Runs with Light Illuminating' (ialchhe alo chalchhe desh, agiye jachhe Bangladesh). Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has

The theme of the pro-

undertaken elaborated programmes to observe the Electricity Week. President Md Abdul Hamid will formally inaugurate the Electricity Week celebration programme at a

function at Bangabandhu

International Conference

Centre (BICC). Besides, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate a three-day scout camp on December 16 to create awareness about power sav-

Cruden meets Foreign,

Law, Agri ministers

Pierre Laramée new Canadian envoy to BD

DHAKA: Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Heather Cruden Wednesday met Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and discussed various bilateral issues, reports UNB.

She also met Law Minister Anisul Huq and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and discussed the full range of bilateral relations between the two countries.

All the Ministers stressed how much they appreciated engagement on a full range of issues - development, trade and political.

The Canadian High Commissioner announced that her replacement would arrive in Dhaka shortly after her departure on January 14.

The newly appointed Canadian ambassador to Bangladesh, Benoît-Pierre Laramée, has served most recently as Canada's Ambassador to Cameroon and is very much looking forward to his new assign-

UNHCR for focus on saving lives as boat people nears 3.5 lakh this yr

Some 540 people died in attempts to cross Bay in S Asia

DHAKA: The UN refugee agency on Wednesday warned that the international community was losing its focus on saving lives amid confusion among coastal nations and regional blocs over how to respond to the growing number of people making risky sea journeys in search of asylum or migration, reports UNB.

With preparations under way for the opening today in Geneva of UNHCR's '2014 High Commissioner's Dialogue' - an informal policy discussion forum whose focus this year is "Protection at Sea" - UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said some governments were increasingly seeing keeping foreigners out as being a higher priority than upholding

In Southeast Asia, an estimated 54,000 people have undertaken sea crossings so far in 2014, most of them departing from Bangladesh or Myanmar and heading to Thailand, Malaysia or Indonesia, according to a message received here from Geneva.

In the Caribbean, at least 4,775 people are known to have taken to boats in the first 11 months, hoping to flee poverty or in search

The clandestine nature of these sea cross-

ings makes reliable comparisons with previous years difficult, but available data points to 2014 being a record high.

According to estimates from coastal authorities and information from confirmed interdictions and other monitoring, at least 348,000 people have risked such journeys worldwide since the start of January. Historically, a principal driver has been migration, but this year the number of asylum-seekers involved has grown.

Many die or fall victim to international organized crime in the process of making these journeys.

Worldwide, UNHCR has received information of 4,272 reported deaths this year. This includes 3,419 on the Mediterranean making it the deadliest route of all.

In Southeast Asia, an estimated 540 people have died in their attempts to cross the Bay of Bengal

In the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, at least 242 lives had been lost by December 8, while in the Caribbean the reported number of dead or missing as of the start of December was 71. People smuggling networks are meanwhile flourishing, operating with impunity in areas of instability or conflict, and profiting from human desperation.

Yet another huge haul of | BD, Sri Lanka gold at Shahjalal Airport

DHAKA: Customs intelligence officials recovered 43 kg gold, worth Tk 21.50 crore, from the freight unit of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport here early Wednesday, reports UNB.

The 43 gold bars, each weighing one kg, were kept hidden in a garment accessories parcel sent from Singapore in a Singapore Airlines flight that landed at the airport around 9:00 pm on Tuesday, said Mainul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID).

He said the gold consignment was sent undercover of garments accessories for a garment manufacturer company situated in Chittagong EPZ. The gold was recovered around 4:00

am from the airport freight unit after an overnight search. "An investigation is on to find out the smugglers," Mainul



Customs Intelligence on Wednesday seized gold bars weighing 43 kilograms from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. Photo: Banglar Chokh

make progress for FTA

DHAKA: Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have completed substantial progress to strike a deal between the two countries on free trade agreement (FTA), reports BSS.

Sri Lankan Industry and Commerce Minister Bathiudeen told ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman when he met with him at his office in Colombo, said a ICC press release yesterday. During the meeting, the Mahbubur Rahman assured the minister of extending possible cooperation from the private sector.

"I will brief our Commerce Minister and request him to expanding trade between the two countries," Mahbubur Rahman told the Sri Lankan minister. Replying to the ICC Bangladesh President, the Sri Lankan Minister said: "Department of Commerce has already completed the Trade agreement study report on our side and both parties have now exchanged their respective reports.'

We're not calling for new polls but solution for future one: Lambert

'European Parliament has concerns over HR situations'

DHAKA: The European Parliament (EP) is not calling for new elections in Bangladesh, but is encouraging all political parties to find a solution for making the next elections inclusive whenever it takes place, said an influential EP member here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

"We're not calling for new elections. We need a political solution from the major political parties about how a future election will be conducted," said Jean Lambert, Member of the EP and Chairperson of the Delegation for relations with South Asia.

Speaking at a pre-departure press conference, she said they have still concerns about the January 5 elections saying it was not 'fully contested' and referred to the non-deployment of election observers in the elections.

European Union (EU) ambassador Pierre Mayaudon was present at the press conference held at the office of the European Union Delegation to Bangladesh.

Lambert said major political parties in Bangladesh have a responsibility at this moment to have a political solution ensuring that the next election will give a real and full voice of the people of Bangladesh whenever the next election takes place.

Asked whether she sees any prospect in terms of narrowing down the gap between major political parties, she said: "Still it seems there is a long way to go. It's difficult to say when the progress will come. But that doesn't mean people should give up trying to make that happen.

Responding to a question on human rights situation in Bangladesh, Lambert referred to the resolution that the EP adopted in September this year expressing concerns over disappearances, extrajudicial killings and seeking 'in-depth' investigations in such incidents.
"We've concerns on a number of issues at the

moment. In the legislative field, one is about proposed law on non-government organizations," she said.

Lambert said an active civil society is very crucial in any country and Bangladesh has got that. "That's part of the country's strength.

She also laid emphasis on free media for strong democratic practice apart from ensuring space for civil society and opposite voices.

Responding to a question regarding EP's call to disassociate ties with Jamaat, she said they had a resolution regarding the matter and they stand by the resolution.

On the country's readymade garment sector, Lambert said the sector has an enormous

She observed that a lot of change is taking place in the sector but listed some challenges ahead like infrastructure improvement, improving workers safety further apart from building safety. "There have been lot of progress but there are areas where you need further progress.

Lambert laid emphasis on changing the mindset and bringing in changes in the operation apart from ensuring regulation of labour law implementation.

Pen that lets you doodle on your food

INTERESTING NEWS

Ever wish your food had a bit more flair? Man, me too. I find myself longing for a home-brewed cup of coffee that's artfully presented, say topped off with a doodle of a mouse or something.

The CinniBird -- "the world's first and only spice pen" -- might be the answer. The pen lets you decorate dishes and drinks with ground materials like cinnamon, paprika, cocoa

powder and sugar. It funnels the materials into a thin stream, making it simple to add a little pizzaz to pretty much anything. To use it, just fill the little gadget with the ground ingredient of your choosing, press the button and voila! With a steady hand, you're ready to create a doodle, write a message or play tic-tac-toe with a pal if you like. You could even fill it with colored sugars and compose pretty designs on your cookies



Kishoreganj war crimes

Martyr's son accuses Hachen of massacre

son on Wednesday blamed war crimes accused Syed Hachen Ali alias Hasan, now on the run, for perpetrating the massacre that had taken place at Shimulhati village in Tarail of Kishoreganj during the Liberation War, on September 9, reports UNB.

Samendra Chandra Paul, now 58, made the accusation before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 while testifying as PW-2 against the fugitive accused, corroborating the evidence of PW-1 Renu C Paul.

Recalling the horrifying incident, PW Samendra said that after getting down from a boat, accused Hachen with trimmed beard, wearing khaki uniform and white cap on his head, had marched into the village brandishing his rifle with a group of Razakar.

Appearing at the village. PW Samendra said, the

accused had started shouting, "Capture, capture the malauns (a derogatory term for Hindus) and kill them...kill them, none will be spared.

Hearing the shouts of the raiders, the villagers became scared and started running helter-skelter to save their lives, said the PW, adding, "I myself managed to take shelter in a bush beside our family pond from where I had witnessed the entire scene of massacre committed by accused Hachen and his cohorts."

Samendra said a dozen unarmed Hindu people, including his father Upendra C Paul, were shot dead after they were captured from different places at gun point.

The perpetrators had also plundered the houses in the village and later set fire to those before leaving the place by boat, said the PW.